

MERKEL TAKES ON OBAMA FOR SURVEILLANCE

JACKIE CALMES

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BERLIN - Challenged by Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany about U.S. intelligence programs that monitor foreigners' communications, President Barack Obama said Wednesday that Ger-



President Barack Obama shakes hands with German Chancellor Angela Merkel after his speech in front of the iconic Brandenburg Gate in Berlin Germany, Wednesday, June 19, 2013.

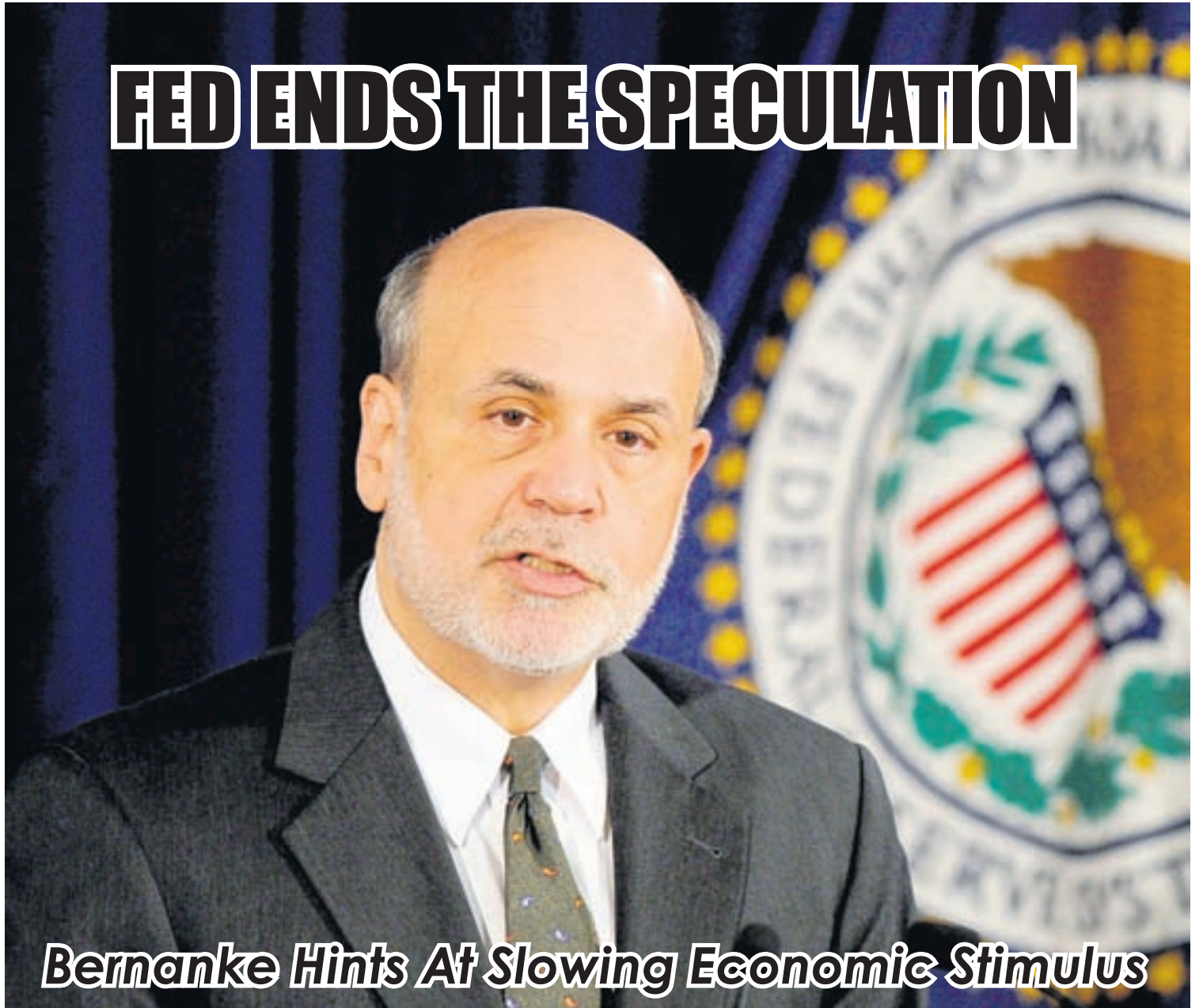
(AP Photo/P.M. Monsivais)

man terrorist threats were among those foiled by such operations worldwide - a contention that Merkel seemed to confirm.

Their exchanges, in private at the start of his state visit and later at a joint news conference, preceded Obama's speech to some 4,500 people at the Brandenburg Gate, near where the Berlin Wall once stood and other U.S. presidents - John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton - had paid tribute to the German-American alliance against outside threats from communism to terrorism. "No wall can stand against the yearning of justice - the yearnings for freedom, the yearnings for peace - that burns in the human heart," Obama said in his speech. He used the address to propose that the United States and Russia further reduce their nuclear arsenals.

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FED ENDS THE SPECULATION



Bernanke Hints At Slowing Economic Stimulus

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke speaks during a news conference in Washington, Wednesday, June 19, 2013. Bernanke. The Federal Reserve said Wednesday that it will maintain the pace of its bond-buying program to keep long-term interest rates at record lows. But it offered a more optimistic outlook for the U.S. economy and job market.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Chairman Ben Bernanke ended weeks of speculation Wednesday by saying the Federal Reserve will likely slow its bond-buying program later this year and end it next year because the economy is strengthening.

The Fed's purchases of Treasury and mortgage bonds have helped keep long-term interest rates at record lows. A pullback in its \$85 billion-a-month program would likely mean higher rates on mortgages and other consumer and business loans.

Speaking at a news confer-

ence after a two-day Fed meeting, Bernanke said the reductions would occur in "measured steps" and that the bond purchases could end by the middle of next year. By then, he thinks unemployment will be around 7 percent. The chairman likened any reduction in the Fed's bond purchases to a driver letting up on a gas pedal rather than applying the brakes. He stressed that even after the Fed ends its bond purchases, it will continue to maintain its vast investment portfolio, which will help keep long-term rates down.

The ultra-low borrowing rates the Fed has engineered have been credit-

ed with helping fuel a housing comeback, support economic growth, drive stocks to record highs and restore the wealth America lost to the recession.

Anticipating higher rates, investors reacted Wednesday by selling both stocks and bonds. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 206 points. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note shot up to 2.33 percent from 2.21 percent.

"There's fear you'll see an expanding economy, which has a tendency to push up interest rates," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer of BMO Private Bank.

Some investors worry that

higher rates will cause investors to shift money out of stocks and into higher-yielding bonds. Others fear that the economy might not be ready to absorb higher rates and that consumers and businesses could pull back on borrowing. Talley Leger, a strategist at Macro Vision Research, said investors had become hooked on the Fed's efforts to keep rates at record lows.

"Markets are asking for expansion of already stimulative policies, and they're not getting it," Leger said. "It's like drug supplier and an addict."

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Merkel challenges Obama on surveillance program

Continued from front

Yet the anticipation of the speech at the historic site was offset by attention to the dispute over the revelations of the breadth of U.S. surveillance programs, which include both Prism, an effort to monitor foreign communications at U.S. Internet companies like Google, as well as a vast database of domestic phone logs. The programs monitor the communications without individualized court orders.

"We know of at least 50 threats that have been averted because of this information, not just in the United States but in some cases here in Germany," Obama said during the news conference. "So lives have been saved."

He did not provide any details.

But Merkel, who acknowledged that Germany has received "very important information" from the United States, cited the so-called Sauerland cell as an example of such anti-terrorism intelligence cooperation.

In that case, four Islamic militants were sentenced to up to 12 years in jail in 2010 for plotting terrorist attacks against U.S. targets in Germany.

They were apprehended in 2007 and confessed in 2009.

The CIA was presumed at the time to have tipped off the German authorities, and the case has gotten renewed attention in Germany since the recent leak that exposed the Prism program for monitoring foreign communications.

That news has been controversial in Germany, where both the Nazi era and the postwar surveillance in Communist East Germany have fostered deep concerns about privacy and civil liberties, and the issue was expected to loom large in the meeting of the two leaders. Merkel said at the news conference that she and Obama had talked at length about the U.S. programs, even indicating that the topic took precedence over their dis-

cussion of subjects like the global economy and the conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan. She made clear that she had expressed her own concerns, despite her stated understanding of the need for such intelligence efforts.

"Although we do see the need," Merkel said, such activities must be balanced by "due diligence" to guard against unwarranted invasions of privacy. "Free democracies live off people having a feeling of security."

Obama, repeating defenses he has made to Americans, described how he had made sure when he took office that the intelligence programs "were examined and scrubbed."

He emphasized that the United States monitored metadata on phone numbers that were linked to suspected terrorist activities and did not eavesdrop on the content of calls or emails without getting a court order.

"So the encroachment of liberty has been strictly circumscribed," he said.

"We do have to strike a balance, and we do have to be cautious about how our governments are operating when it comes to intelligence," Obama said, adding, "This is not a situation in which we are rifling through the ordinary emails of German citizens or American citizens or French citizens or anybody else."

Merkel looked at him he

spoke beside her, expressionless but seeming to listen intently.

"It's necessary for us to debate these issues," she replied. "People have concerns."

The interplay between the leaders reflected a mutual respect and even personal closeness that they have developed over recent years, despite some of their policy differences.

Obama noted that he had given her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor, and said that spoke to their relationship. He called the chancellor "Angela" and she, in German, used "du," the familiar form of the pronoun "you," in addressing him.

On some of the other issues - particularly regarding efforts to provide more aid to the Syrian insurgency, and plans for international forces to leave Afghanistan next year - the two leaders agreed, reflecting discussions they had Monday and Tuesday in Northern Ireland with other heads of state at the meeting of the Group of Eight industrialized countries.

Merkel, at the news conference, agreed with Obama that Syria's president, Bashar Assad, had lost legitimacy because of his government's bloodshed and should not be part of the new government that the United States, Germany and other European allies sought in Syria. □



President Barack Obama, accompanied by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, waves before throwing his jacket over his shoulder as he arrives to speak at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Wednesday, June 19, 2013. Obama called to reduce the world's nuclear stockpiles, including a proposed one-third reduction in U.S. and Russian arsenals, a senior administration official said.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Kerry calls Karzai to ease anger on Taliban office

DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State John Kerry on Wednesday made his second call to the Afghan president in 24 hours to ease Hamid Karzai's anger over the rollout of the Taliban's new political office in Qatar — a rift that temporarily delayed U.S. talks

with the militant group set to begin later this week.

Karzai was upset that when it opened its new office Tuesday in Qatar, the Taliban used its formal name, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, which is what it used when they were in power more than a decade ago.

Afghan officials said that vi-

olated an agreement that the office should open only for negotiations, not as a political entity like a parallel institution to the Afghan government.

In anger, Karzai halted negotiations with the U.S. on a future bilateral security agreement, which will govern U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan after

the end of 2014 when most international forces will have completed their withdrawal from the country.

And he said he would no longer send representatives from his High Peace Council to Qatar for talks with the Taliban, presumably to be held a few days after Taliban talks with the Americans. □

NEWSBREAK: New MERS virus spreads easily, deadlier than SARS

MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — A mysterious new respiratory virus that originated in the Middle East spreads easily between people and appears more deadly than SARS, doctors reported Wednesday after investigating the biggest outbreak in Saudi Arabia.

More than 60 cases of what is now called MERS, including 38 deaths, have been recorded by the World Health Organization in the past year, mostly in Saudi Arabia. So far, illnesses haven't spread as quickly as SARS did in 2003, ultimately triggering a global outbreak that killed about 800 people.

An international team of doctors who investigated nearly two dozen cases in eastern Saudi Arabia found the new coronavirus has some striking similarities to SARS. Unlike SARS, though, scientists remain baffled as to the source of MERS.

In a worrying finding, the team said MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) not only spreads easily between people, but within hospitals. That was also the case with SARS, a distant relative of the new virus.

"To me, this felt a lot like SARS did," said Dr. Trish Perl, a senior hospital epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Medicine, who was part of the team. Their report was published online Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Perl said they couldn't nail down how it was spread in every case — through droplets from sneezing or coughing, or a more indirect route. Some of the hospital patients weren't close to the infected person, but somehow picked up the virus.

"In the right circumstances, the spread could be explosive," said Perl, while emphasizing that the team only had a snapshot of one MERS cluster in Saudi Arabia.

Cases have continued to

trickle in, and there appears to be an ongoing outbreak in Saudi Arabia. MERS cases have also been reported in Jordan, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Tunisia. Most have had a direct connection to the Middle East region.

In the Saudi cluster that was investigated, certain patients infected many more people than would be expected, Perl said. One patient who was receiving dialysis treatment spread MERS to seven others, including fellow dialysis patients at the same hospital. During SARS, such patients were known as "superspreaders" and effectively seeded outbreaks in numerous countries.

Perl and colleagues also concluded that symptoms of both diseases are similar, with an initial fever and cough that may last for a few days before pneumonia develops.

But MERS appears far more lethal. Compared to SARS' 8 percent death rate, the fatality rate for MERS in the Saudi outbreak was about 65 percent, though the experts could be missing mild cases that might skew the figures.

While SARS was traced to bats before jumping to humans via civet cats, the source of the MERS virus remains a mystery. It is most closely related to a bat virus though some experts suspect people may be getting sick from animals like camels or goats. Another hypothesis is that infected bats may be contaminating foods like dates, commonly harvested and eaten in Saudi Arabia.

Doctors around the world have struggled to treat patients. "We need more information from other countries to find out what the best treatment is," said Dr. Clemens Wendtner, who treated a MERS patient who later died in Munich. "Our patient got everything possible and it still didn't help him." □

Italy:

Actor James Gandolfini dead at 51

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Gandolfini, whose portrayal of a brutal, emotionally fragile mob boss in HBO's "The Sopranos" helped create one of TV's greatest drama series and turned

family for many years and we are all grieving," Armstrong and Sanders said. HBO called the actor a "special man, a great talent, but more importantly a gentle and loving person who treated everyone, no matter their title or position,

cold-blooded killer.

After the series concluded with its breathtaking ending that left viewers guessing, Gandolfini's varied film work included "Zero Dark Thirty" and comedies such as "In the Loop," a political satire. He voiced the Wild



This undated publicity photo, released by HBO, shows actor James Gandolfini in his role as Tony Soprano, head of the New Jersey crime family portrayed in HBO's "The Sopranos." HBO and the managers for Gandolfini say the actor died Wednesday, June 19, 2013, in Italy. He was 51.

(AP Photo/HBO, Barry Wetcher)

the mobster stereotype on its head, died Wednesday in Italy. He was 51.

In a statement, the cable channel and Gandolfini's managers Mark Armstrong and Nancy Sanders said he died while on holiday in Rome. No cause of death was given. "Our hearts are shattered and we will miss him deeply. He and his family were part of our

with equal respect." The channel expressed sympathy for his wife and children. Gandolfini played mob boss Tony Soprano in the groundbreaking series that aired from 1999 to 2007. His performance was indelible and career-making, but he refused to be stereotyped in other roles as the bulky mobster who was a therapy patient, family man and

Thing Carol in "Where the Wild Things Are."

Gandolfini also shared a Broadway stage in 2009 with Jeff Daniels, Hope Davis and Marcia Gay Harden in a celebrated production of "God of Carnage," where he earned a Tony Award nomination for best actor. He also was in "On the Waterfront" with David Morse. □

Obama plans major global warming push

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is planning a major push against the pollution blamed for global warming in an effort to follow promises he made at the start of his second term.

"This is the global threat of our time," Obama said in a speech Wednesday in Berlin.

The plan is to use Obama's executive powers — which don't require Congress approval — to expand renewable energy and boost the energy efficiency of

appliances and buildings, said Obama's senior energy and climate adviser, Heather Zichal.

She said the Environmental Protection Agency was preparing to use its authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate heat-trapping pollution from coal-fired power plants.

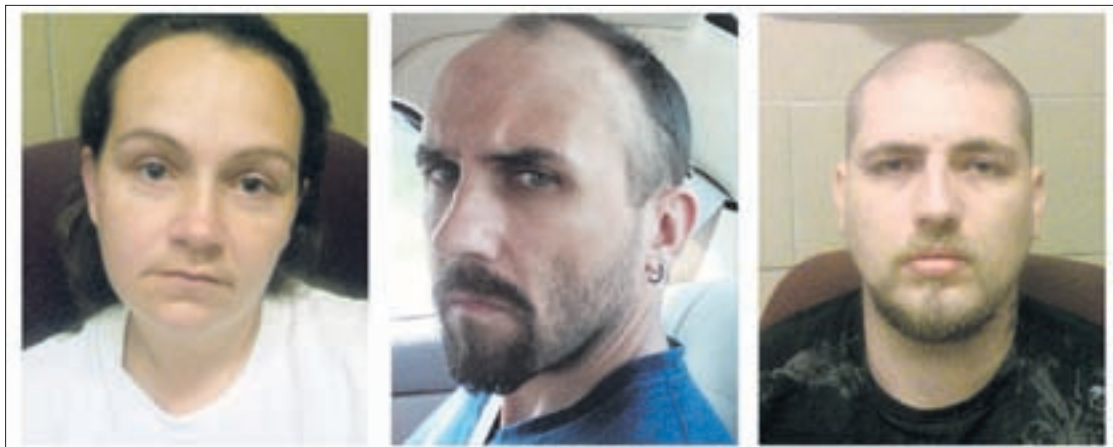
Zichal spoke at a forum in Washington.

The plan comes as Obama has been under increasing pressure from environmental groups and lawmakers from Northeast states harmed by last year's Su-

perstorm Sandy to cut pollution from existing power plants, the largest source of climate-altering gases. Several major environmental groups and states have threatened to sue the administration to force cuts. And last week, former Vice President Al Gore, a prominent climate activist and fellow Democrat, called on Obama to go beyond "great words" to "great actions."

It was unclear whether the White House plans would include controls on existing power plants. □

US woman, allegedly enslaved, spent time in jail



Three undated photos provided by the Department of Justice show Jessica L. Hunt, left, Daniel Brown, center, and Jordie L. Callahan, right.

(AP Photos/Department of Justice)

JOHN SEEWER
T. J. SHEERAN
Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — A mentally disabled mother whom authorities said was enslaved for two years along with her daughter spent time in jail this year after pleading guilty to beating the girl, but her attorney told a judge that her captors forced her to do it. Court records show that a child endangering complaint was filed against the

woman in October 2012 just a day after she was charged with shoplifting and asked to be jailed because three people had been mean to her. Beginning in early 2011, the three suspects forced the mother to cooperate with them by threats and physical abuse, federal prosecutors said. The woman told authorities she was forced to do housework by the three, who she said raided her bank account and

menaced her with snakes and pit bulls. The woman and her daughter were freed in October after police investigated an abuse allegation one of the suspects made against her. Police checking into her "mean" claim went to an apartment after one of the suspects said it was the woman who was abusive. Authorities said the allegation was a ruse complete with a video staged by

the suspects. They said the suspects had forced the woman to act as if she were mistreating her child. The woman later pleaded guilty to child endangering and was sentenced to 150 days in jail in February. She served only part of that sentence.

Her attorney told a judge during sentencing that two of the suspects encouraged the woman to abuse the child and threatened to go to police if she didn't comply, the Ashland Times-Gazette reported last winter.

Authorities announced federal charges Tuesday against the three people the woman lived with in Ashland, about 65 miles (105 kilometers) southwest of Cleveland.

Jordie Callahan, 26, Jessica Hunt, 31, and Daniel J. "DJ" Brown, 33, were charged with forced labor. Callahan also was charged with tampering with a witness in the investigation. □

Mueller: FBI uses drones for surveillance

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI uses drones for surveillance of stationary subjects, and the privacy implications of such operations are "worthy of debate," FBI Director Robert Mueller said Wednesday.

He said the law enforcement agency very seldom uses drones now, but is developing guidelines that will shape how unmanned aerial vehicles are to be used.

There will be a number of issues regarding drones "as they become more omnipresent, not the least of which is the drones in airspace and also the threat on privacy," Mueller said in an appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"We already have, to a certain extent, a body of law that relates to aerial surveillance and privacy relating to helicopters and small aircraft ... which could well be adapted to the use of drones," Mueller said. "It's still in its nascent stages ... but it's worthy of debate and perhaps legislation down the road."

Drones "allow us to learn critical information that otherwise would be difficult to obtain without introducing serious risk to law enforcement personnel," the FBI said in a statement following Mueller's comments at the Senate hearing.

The FBI used drones at night during a six-day hostage standoff in Alabama earlier this year. The standoff ended when members of an FBI rescue team stormed an underground bunker, killing gunman Jimmy Lee Dykes before he could harm a 5-year-old boy held hostage.

The FBI said its unmanned aerial vehicles are used only to conduct surveillance operations on stationary subjects. In each instance, the FBI first must obtain the approval of the Federal Aviation Administration to use the aircraft in a very confined geographic area. □

Manhattan: Several injured after car jumps curb

MARC SANTORA
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NEW YORK - One person was critically injured and several others were hurt, including a man on a Citi Bike, on Wednesday morning after a car ran onto on a curb in the East Village in front of a corner bodega, leaving behind a trail of mangled bicycles, broken glass and other debris. The 32-year-old male driver of the car was taken into custody, police said. He was driving southbound shortly before 7 a.m. when he lost control of the vehicle, police said. He ran over a street sign, a fire hydrant and a tree before ripping through the outdoor display of a 24-hour bodega. Three people who were standing outside the bodega were injured, including a 62-year-old man who was later hospitalized in critical condition, police said. The car, a white Nissan sedan, then moved back out onto the street and



A white Nissan Altima, center, that jumped a curb in Lower Manhattan in front of the grocery with the blue awning, in New York, June 19, 2013. At least eight people were injured Wednesday morning after the car jumped the curb in front of a corner bodega, leaving behind a trail of mangled bicycles, broken glass and other debris.

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

smashed into the man who was riding a Citi Bike, part of New York City's new ride share program. The bicyclist was hospitalized in stable condition, police said.

All of the victims were taken to Bellevue Hospital Center. Officials earlier had said eight people were hurt, three of them with life-

threatening injuries. Photos from the scene showed the car, its front smashed, sitting in the intersection just past the 24-hour bodega. □



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New probe sought in US jet crash on missile theory

Associated Press

MINEOLA, New York (AP)

— Former U.S. investigators want to reopen the probe into the 1996 crash of a Paris-bound jet off the coast of New York City, saying new evidence points to the often-discounted theory that a missile strike may have downed the flight.

TWA Flight 800 crashed July 17, 1996, just minutes after the jetliner took off, killing all 230 people aboard.

The effort to reopen the investigation is being made in tandem with next month's release of a documentary that features the testimony of former investigators, who raise doubts about the National Transportation Safety Board's conclusion that the crash was caused by a center fuel tank explosion, probably caused by a spark from a short-circuit in the wiring.

"We don't know who fired the missile," said Jim Speer, an accident investigator for the Air Line Pilots Association, one of those seeking a new review of the probe. "But we have a lot more confidence that it was a missile."

In a petition asking the NTSB to reopen the probe, they say they reviewed the Federal Aviation Administration radar evidence along with new evidence that was not available to the safety board during the official investigation.

The former investigators contend that the testimony of more than 200 witnesses who reported seeing streaks of light headed toward the plane should be reconsidered. The NTSB said after the first investigation that what witnesses likely saw was the jetliner pitching upward in the first few moments after the explosion, but some witnesses

still maintain that the streak of light they saw emanated from the waterline and zoomed upward toward the plane.

The petition filed with the NTSB to reopen the probe claims "new analyses of the FAA radar evidence demonstrate that the explosion that caused the crash did not result from a low-velocity fuel-air explosion as the NTSB has determined. Rather, it was caused by a detonation or high-velocity explosion." The NTSB issued a statement Wednesday saying it is aware of the documentary.

"While the NTSB rarely re-investigates issues that have already been examined, our investigations are never closed and we can review any new information not previously considered by the board," spokeswoman Kelly Nantel said.

She noted the TWA Flight 800 investigation lasted four years.

Robert Francis, the former vice chairman of the NTSB who headed the investigation, declined to comment. Former FBI Assistant Director James Kallstrom, who headed the criminal probe after the crash, denied claims of a cover-up by the government, saying investigators "took very seriously the idea that a missile could have shot down the plane."

"We used all the assets of the United States, all the missile experts in the military," he said. "So I'm very confident that we had enough of that airplane to make the judgment that no criminal intervention, to our knowledge, our knowledge at the time, our knowledge in 1996, wherever that science was, that did not bring down the aircraft." □



In this Nov. 19, 1997 file photo, FBI agents and New York state police guard the reconstruction of TWA Flight 800 in Calverton, N.Y. Flight 800 exploded and crashed July 17, 1996 while flying from New York to Paris, killing all 230 people aboard. Former investigators on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 called on the National Transportation Safety Board to re-examine the cause, saying new evidence points to the often-discounted theory that a missile strike may have downed the jumbo jet. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)



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US authorities: 2 men tried to make X-ray weapon

MICHAEL VIRTANEN
Associated Press

ALBANY, New York (AP) —

U.S. authorities accused two men of assembling a portable X-ray weapon that they intended to use to secretly sicken opponents of Israel.

The indictment charged 49-year-old Glendon Scott Crawford and 54-year-old Eric J. Feight with conspiracy to provide support to terrorists with the weapon. Investigators said Crawford approached Jewish organizations last year looking for funding and people to help him with technology that could be used to surreptitiously deliver damaging and even lethal doses of radiation against those he considered enemies of Israel. He and Feight assembled the mobile device, which was to be controlled remotely, but it was inoperable and nobody was hurt, authorities said.

"Crawford has specifically identified Muslims and several other individuals/groups as targets," investigator Geoffrey Kent said in a court affidavit. According to the indictment, Crawford

also traveled to North Carolina in October to solicit money for the weapon from a ranking member of

the Ku Klux Klan, who informed the FBI. Crawford claimed to be a member. The men appeared separately Wednesday in federal court and were ordered detained until detention hearings Thursday.

They could face up to 15 years in prison. Messages left at their homes weren't returned Wednesday.

"This case demonstrates how we must remain vigilant to detect and stop potential terrorists, who so often harbor hatred toward people they deem undesirable," U.S. Attorney Richard Hartunian said in a statement.

FBI Special Agent Andrew Vale said efforts to thwart violent plots require public help. The damaging effects of the radiation would have appeared only days later, authorities said. The investigation by the FBI in Albany and police agencies began in April 2012 after authorities received information that Crawford had approached the Jewish organizations. Crawford, an industrial mechanic for General Electric, knew Feight, an outside GE contractor

with mechanical and engineering skills, through work, authorities said. Feight designed, built and tested the remote control, which they planned to use to operate an industrial X-ray system mounted on a truck.

According to the indictment, the investigators had a confidential undercover source in place within weeks after learning of Crawford's attempts to solicit money and later an undercover investigator introduced by the source. They recorded meetings and conversations, and in December investigators got court authorization to tap Crawford's phones, the indictment said.

Last June, the undercover investigator brought Crawford X-ray tubes to examine for possible use in the weapon, followed by their technical specifications a month later. At a November meeting with undercover investigators, Crawford brought Feight, both said they were committed to building the device and named the group "the guild," the indictment said. □



Eric J. Feight 54 of Hudson, N.Y. leaves the federal courthouse in shackles after being arraigned Wednesday June 19, 2013, in Albany, N.Y. Federal authorities accused Feight and Glendon Scott Crawford, 49, of Galway, N.Y., of assembling a portable X-ray weapon that they intended to use to secretly sicken opponents of Israel.

(AP Photo/The Albany Times Union, Skip Dickstein)

US Senate confirms Froman as next trade representative

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate has overwhelmingly confirmed President Barack Obama's pick to be the next U.S. trade representative, landing senior White House economic adviser Michael Froman in two of the country's most significant trade deals in recent history. "In his new position, Mike will stay focused on our primary economic goals — promoting growth, creating jobs and strengthening the middle class," Obama said in a statement. "And he will continue to help open new markets for American businesses, level the playing field for American workers, farmers and ranchers, and fully enforce our trade rights." Froman, nominated by Obama in May, succeeds Ron Kirk, who

resigned in February after serving through Obama's first term and finalizing free trade agreements with South Korea, Panama and Colombia. Froman has been serving as deputy national security adviser for international economic affairs and has been involved in coordinating White House policy on international trade, investments and energy. One of

Froman's main responsibilities as USTR will be meeting a goal to complete negotiations this year on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an Asian-Pacific trading bloc that includes the U.S., Australia, Canada, Malaysia, Mexico, Vietnam, Chile, New Zealand, Brunei, Singapore, Peru and Japan. The trade office will also be at the forefront of just-initiated trade liberal-

ization talks with the European Union known as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. Froman worked as Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin's chief of staff during the Bill Clinton administration. He was a managing partner at Citigroup and a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations before joining the Obama administration. □

US Financial Front:

Fed suggests it's closer to slowing bond purchases

Continued from front

After its two-day policy meeting ended Wednesday, the Fed issued an updated economic forecast, which sketched a brighter

ous bubbles in assets like stocks or real estate.

Timothy Duy, a University of Oregon economist who tracks the Fed, called its statement "an open door for scaling back asset pur-

percent at the end of this year from 7.6 percent now. They think the rate will be between 6.5 percent and 6.8 percent by the end of 2014, better than its previous projection in March of

son. It said inflation could run as low as 0.8 percent this year. But it predicts it will pick up next year to between 1.4 percent and 2 percent.

David Robin, co-head of the futures and options desk at the brokerage Newedge, said he didn't think Bernanke's upbeat assessment matches an economy that's just "muddling along."

Investors may suspect the Fed is looking for a reason to scale back the bond purchases, Robin said. "It's a big mess," he said.

The statement was approved on a 10-2 vote. James Bullard, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, objected for the first time this year, saying he wanted a stronger commitment from the Fed to keep inflation from falling too low.

Esther George objected for the fourth time this year, again voicing concerns about inflation rising too quickly.

At his news conference,

Bernanke declined to address speculation that he will step down as Fed chairman when his term ends in January.

He was asked to respond to comments Monday by President Barack Obama, who said Bernanke had already stayed longer than planned. The president's remarks added to expectations that Bernanke intends to step down.

Bernanke avoided the question. "I would like to keep the discussion on monetary policy," he said.

"I don't have anything for you on my personal plans."

David Jones, chief economist at DMJ Advisors, suggested that Bernanke had achieved a key goal Wednesday: Clearing up the confusion he'd created when he sent a mixed message to Congress last month about when the Fed might start to slow its bond buying program.

"What Bernanke did was clarify" when it will taper its bond purchases, Jones said. □



Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke's news conference is on a television screen on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, June 19, 2013. The Federal Reserve offered a hint Wednesday that it's moving closer to slowing its bond-buying program, which is intended to keep long-term interest rates at record lows.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

outlook. And in a statement, it said the "downside risks to the outlook" had diminished since fall. Fed members voted to continue the pace of its bond-buying program for now.

At his news conference, Bernanke suggested that increased home prices and household wealth, a stronger construction industry and steady consumer spending would help support economic growth and offset higher mortgage rates.

"Generally speaking, financial conditions are improving," he said.

The Fed's more upbeat forecast helps explain why it thinks record-low rates may soon no longer be necessary. Low rates help fuel economic growth. But they also raise the risk of high inflation and danger-

chases as early as September."

The fact that the Fed foresees less downside risk to the job market "gives them a reason to pull back" on its bond purchases, Duy said.

Asked at his news conference whether it will be difficult for the Fed to clearly communicate its plans for scaling back the bond purchases, Bernanke agreed. "We are in a more complex type of situation," he said. "We are going to be as clear as we can."

In its statement, the Fed also said it would maintain its plan to keep short-term rates at record lows at least until unemployment reaches 6.5 percent.

In its updated economic forecast, Fed officials predicted that unemployment will fall to 7.2 percent or 7.3

6.7 percent to 7 percent.

The Fed also said inflation was running below its 2 percent long-run objective, but noted that temporary factors were partly the rea-

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"The giant has awakened"

Brazil leader left with few options in face of protests

**BRADLEY BROOKS
JENNY BARCHFIELD
MARCO SIBAJA
Associated Press**

SAO PAULO (AP) — With massive protests by middle-class Brazilians demanding wholesale government reforms, people all over this continent-sized country have reached a verdict on the streets and online: "The giant has awakened."

President Dilma Rousseff has tried to placate the crowds by supporting their right to protest, and the Sao Paulo municipal government has rescinded the 10-cent hike in bus and subway fares that sparked the demonstrations in the first place. But as the protests grow even bigger, with two major marches called for Thursday, the Brazilian government seems at a loss over how to address the sweeping demands of its people.

Protesters have presented the government with myriad demands and a growing list of complaints: It can't provide its citizens with basic security, officials are corrupt and inefficient, traffic is bottlenecked on pot-holed streets, and even cellphones don't work. And the investment that should be going into health care and education are pouring into soccer stadiums and airports instead.

Rousseff's response has been little more than rhetoric. She hasn't formed any emergency committees to deal with the crisis or offered grand gestures or fresh ideas. And that has further angered Brazilians such as Rosana Reis, a 51-year-old nurse who like millions in the middle class is feeling the pinch of high taxes and perennially poor

public services while the country spends billions of dollars to host next year's World Cup and the 2016 Olympics.

"I worked for years in public hospitals and I've seen with my own eyes how everybody but the richest Brazilians suffer," Reis said during a protest this week that took over central Sao

collective, if unorganized cry for help from a newly expanded middle class that expects more for its taxes and from its democratically elected left-of-center government.

The public outcry has caught Brazil's leadership off-guard. Instead of dealing with one group with one list of demands, the

in search of a solution.

They are working under the immediate pressure of pacifying protesters before next month's papal visit to Rio and inner Sao Paulo state.

"The response of most politicians has been insufficient because they don't understand that by being elected they made a com-

President Dilma has taken too long to recognize that these demands are genuine."

Dutra said that when it comes to cracking down on dissenting voices, allowing environmental destruction in the Amazon or to building big public works for the World Cup and Olympics, the government



Fans hold protest signs reading "Not against the Brazilian team - against corruption" during the soccer Confederations Cup group A match between Brazil and Mexico at Castelao stadium in Fortaleza, Brazil, Wednesday, June 19, 2013.

(AP Photo/Natasha Pisarenko)

Paulo. "These politicians have money for the World Cup, money for the Olympics, but none to spend on health care or education. We've had enough. The people have woken up!"

The protests began a week ago in Sao Paulo and spread quickly to other cities after an initial police crackdown on demonstrators. They have become a

government has been confronted with a spontaneous mass movement without a unified agenda.

How to quell the discontent adds up to the stiffest challenge yet to the ruling Workers Party since it took power in 2003. Rousseff has been meeting with former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Sao Paulo Mayor Fernando Haddad

mitment to the population," said Domingos Dutra, a Workers Party congressman who has often butted heads with party leadership.

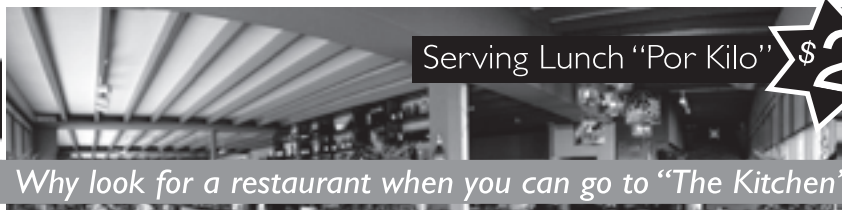
"Protesters' demands are clear — the immediate reversal of transportation fares. But there are others: improvements in health care, combating violence and combating impunity.

moves quickly.

"But when it comes to meeting social demands, it works slowly. I hope that the government understands that society is evolving and it needs to act quickly to meet demands," he added.

A poll of protesters attending this week's rallies in Sao Paulo shows they are solidly middle class. □

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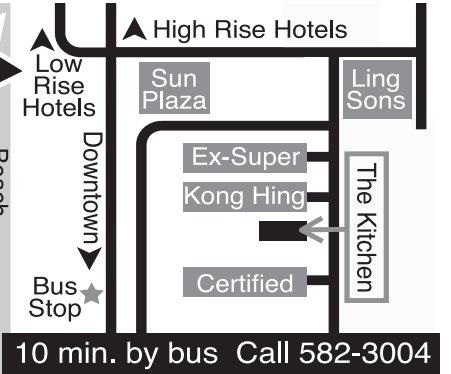


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Syria troops battle rebels near major Shiite shrine

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Hezbollah fighters joined Syrian forces in battling rebels in a Damascus suburb that is home to a revered Shiite Muslim shrine, in a push to secure the area around the ornate, golden domed mosque.

Protection of the Sayida Zeinab shrine has become a rallying cry for Shiite fighters backing President Bashar Assad, raising the stakes in a conflict that is increasingly being fought along sectarian lines.

The fighting in the area south of the capital is part of a wider military offensive by Assad's forces to recapture suburbs held by rebels and areas in the country's strategic heartland. Activists said violent clashes coupled with heavy artillery bombardment of the

southern suburbs reverberated in the capital.

The main Western-backed opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, warned of an impending humanitarian disaster. It said regime forces, backed by Hezbollah and Iraqi Shiite fighters and dozens of tanks and armored vehicles, were besieging the area, trapping tens of thousands of civilians under heavy bombardment. "Civilians in this area live in grim fear and anxiety, with no electricity and no way to escape from the anticipated large scale massacre that often follows these types of regime attacks," a statement issued by the group said. The international community has been largely unable to end the Syrian civil war, now in its third year, which has killed 93,000 people, and likely



Syrian security forces at the site where a car bomb exploded near the shrine of Sayyida Zeinab, background, in a suburb of Damascus, Syria. Hezbollah fighters join Syrian forces in battling rebels in a Damascus suburb that is home to a revered Shiite Muslim shrine, in a push to secure the area around the golden domed mosque. Protection of the Sayida Zeinab shrine has become a rallying cry for Shiite fighters backing President Bashar Assad, raising the stakes in a conflict that is increasingly being fought along sectarian lines.

(AP Photo/Bassem Tellawi)

many more, according to the United Nations. President Barack Obama, Russian President Vladimir Putin and other leaders of

the Group of Eight industrial economies meeting in Northern Ireland this week tried to narrow sharp differences between Russia,

a key Assad backer, and Western leaders who support the rebels, but could not agree on whether Assad must go. □

Dutch government may miss 2014 deficit target

TOBY STERLING
AP Business Writer

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Dutch finance minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem said Wednesday the country's government plans to cut spending again in 2014 but acknowledged that the Netherlands may breach European deficit targets again anyway.

EU rules require countries to limit budget deficits to 3 percent of annual gross domestic product. The European Commission granted the Netherlands permission to miss the target this year after the government carried out a major program of spending cuts and tax hikes. But it was expected to reduce its deficit to 2.8 percent in 2014. However, recent econom-

ic forecasts show the country's recession continuing and the deficit is now expected to widen to 3.9 percent in 2014 without further action.

Dijsselbloem said Wednesday the Cabinet will pursue further cuts, but set an absolute maximum of 6 billion euros (\$9 billion) — even if that means missing the 3 percent target.

"We assume that if the numbers get worse, and they're doing so as we speak, that the European Commission will give us more time," Dijsselbloem told reporters.

The decision is a notable departure from past policy. Until now, the Dutch government has shown an unwavering devotion to the austerity policies championed by German Chancellor Angela

Merkel, despite criticism from many economists and the International Monetary Fund.

Opposition Dutch political parties, the government's own Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis, labor unions and the country's association of employers have also recently called on the Cabinet not to try to meet the 3 percent target too quickly.

Ironically, while the Dutch government has insisted on spending cuts for countries in Southern Europe, such policies at home have so far failed to help it get its own budget within specified limits since 2008, and may have had a counterproductive effect.

In February, the Cabinet said it might not need any spending cuts in 2014, as

it expected the economy would begin to recover on its own.

It said a deal on wage

freezes brokered with labor unions and employers would spark a new optimism among consumers. □

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In Beijing: China, North Korea hold strategic talks

C. BODEEN
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Negotiators from North Korea and China held strategic talks in Beijing on Wednesday as they work to repair strained relations, but offered little indication they will lead to a resumption of nuclear disarmament talks any time soon.

Neither Pyongyang or Beijing offered details of the meeting between North Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui. They were

month to Beijing by top envoy Vice Marshal Choe Ryong Hae, who was quoted as saying Pyongyang was "willing to take active measures" to return to talks.

Choe's visit was followed by renewed outreach to South Korea, and on Sunday, Pyongyang proposed "senior-level" talks with the U.S. to ease tensions and negotiate a formal peace treaty ending the Korean War, which concluded only with an armistice.

However, in its invitation, North Korea's National Defense Commission, the

nation on their policy toward Pyongyang. They also agreed to deepen consultations with China and Russia.

In a statement afterward, the U.S., Japan and South Korea agreed "a path is open" for North Korea for improved relations with all of them, if it takes "takes meaningful steps on denuclearization." They also mentioned the need for improved inter-Korean relations and — addressing an issue of particular importance to Japan — the resolution of cases of ab-



North Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, right, waves as he arrives at the Capital airport in Beijing, China. North Korea's top nuclear negotiator Kim is in in Beijing for talks with Chinese counterparts following Pyongyang's surprise offer of dialogue with the United States.

(AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

expected to focus on bilateral relations and the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

The meeting followed Pyongyang's surprise offer Sunday for direct talks with the U.S. after months of threats that raised the possibility of fresh fighting on the Korean Peninsula.

With its long-range rocket launch and nuclear test earlier this year, North Korea angered China, its most important ally, leading Beijing to back tightened U.N. sanctions, crack down on North Korean banking activity and urge Pyongyang to return to disarmament talks.

North Korea has sought to mend ties since then, including with a visit last

powerful governing body led by leader Kim Jong Un, insisted that there be no preconditions to talks and no demands that Pyongyang give up its prized nuclear assets unless Washington is willing to do the same.

The Obama administration responded that it was open to dialogue, but wants "credible negotiations" that involve North Korean compliance with U.N. resolutions and would lead to a nuclear-free North.

In Washington, U.S. envoy on North Korea, Glyn Davies, held three-way talks Wednesday with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts, aimed at maintaining close coordi-

duction by North Korea.

Renewing nuclear talks is also expected to be on the agenda for meetings this week between Chinese leaders and visiting United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, a former South Korean foreign minister.

China is also expected to reaffirm its support for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula during a visit next week by South Korea's President Park Geun-hye.

North Korea continues to send mixed messages on negotiations and its only clear intent is to mend ties with Beijing, said Fang Xiyu, a professor at the Center for Korean Studies at Shanghai's Fudan University. □

Iceland:

'Informal talks' about Snowden asylum

MALIN RISING
STOCKHOLM (AP) — A

WikiLeaks spokesman who claims to represent Edward Snowden has reached out to government officials in Iceland about the potential of the NSA leaker applying for asylum in the Nordic country, officials there said Wednesday.

Johannes Skulason, an Icelandic government official, told The Associated Press that WikiLeaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson had held informal talks with assistants at the Interior Ministry and the prime minister's office. Skulason said Hrafnsson "presented his case that he was in contact with Snowden and wanted to see what the legal framework was like."

Icelandic Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson earlier Wednesday told reporters in Sweden that there had been no formal discussions on the matter. To apply for asylum,

Snowden must be on Icelandic soil.

Hrafnsson told the AP he had talked to an intermediary that he was "100 percent sure represents Mr. Snowden," but declined to identify the intermediary.

Hrafnsson said he had met with people at the Icelandic ministries and reported back to his contact, but couldn't give any more details about when or how Snowden would possibly travel to Iceland.

In an interview published shortly after he outed himself as the source behind stories about the U.S. spy agency's online surveillance programs, Snowden floated the idea of heading to Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland.

He told the Guardian newspaper that he was inclined to seek asylum in a country that shared his values — and "the nation that most encompasses this is Iceland." □

UN:

45.2 million refugees, displaced people

JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The Syrian civil war contributed to pushing the numbers of refugees and those displaced by conflict within their own nation to an 18-year high of 45.2 million worldwide by the end of 2012, the U.N. refugee agency said Wednesday. Those are the highest numbers since 1994, when people fled genocide in Rwanda and bloodshed in former Yugoslavia. By the end of last year, the world had 15.4 million refugees, 937,000 asylum seekers and 28.8 million people who had been forced to flee within the borders of their own countries, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said in a report. Of those, 17 percent were new to their situations in 2012: 1.1 million new refugees and 6.5 million internally displaced people — many from conflicts in Mali, Congo and

Sudan. That translates into someone becoming a new refugee or internally displaced person somewhere in the world every 4.1 seconds during the last year, said Antonio Guterres, head of the Geneva-based agency, also known as UNHCR. "Which means each time you blink, another person is forced to flee," he told reporters in Geneva. The overall numbers rose by 6 percent from the 42.5 million refugees and internally displaced people at the end of 2011.

Children below the age of 18 accounted for 46 percent of refugees worldwide. There were 21,300 asylum applications by children who were either unaccompanied or separated from their parents — the highest such number the agency has recorded. Most of the refugees in the world have fled from five war-affected countries: Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Syria and Sudan. □



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One of US FBI's most wanted nabbed in Mexico

GABRIEL ALCOCER

Associated Press

CANCUN, Mexico (AP) —

Mexican authorities have arrested a former University of Southern California professor who was on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list in the resort city of Playa del Carmen.

Prosecutor Gaspar Armando Garcia Torres said Walter Lee Williams, 64, is wanted on charges of sexual exploitation of children and traveling abroad for the purpose of engaging in sexual acts with children.

Garcia said Williams was captured late Tuesday while drinking coffee near a park in the Caribbean beach town.

"This person is wanted by the FBI because he is linked to the sexual exploitation of children," Garcia told reporters.

He said it wasn't clear how

long Williams had been living in Playa del Carmen and that the fugitive also had an address in nearby Cancun, where he was taken and turned over to Mexican immigration officials.

Garcia did not say whether Williams is suspected of committing any crimes in Mexico.

A federal arrest warrant was issued for the former Palm Springs, Calif., resident in Los Angeles in April, according to the FBI website.

The indictment alleges Williams traveled from Los Angeles to the Philippines in January 2011 to engage in sex acts with two 14-year-old boys he met online in 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a statement Monday.

While in the Philippines, Williams allegedly engaged in

sex acts with both boys and produced sexually explicit

photos of one of the boys. Williams fled the Los An-



This 2011 image provided by the FBI shows Walter Lee Williams, 65, one of the U.S. FBI's 10 most wanted fugitives has been arrested in the resort city of Playa del Carmen, Mexico, Tuesday June 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/FBI)

geles area approximately one week after returning from the Philippines, it added.

Until 2011, Williams was a tenured professor at the University of Southern California where his field of study was gender development. Williams was also affiliated with the Buddhist Universal Association of Los Angeles, California, according to the FBI.

"Williams has an extensive history of travel throughout the South East Asia region, specifically the Philippines," the FBI said. "He has reportedly resided in Indonesia, Polynesia and Thailand."

The FBI added Williams to its Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list on Monday.

"I analyzed the computers and the camera that belong to Williams and found child pornography". □

Monsoon floods kill 102 in India, strand pilgrims

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India (AP) —

India's prime minister said Wednesday that the death toll from flooding this week in the northern state of Uttarakhand had surpassed 100 and could rise substantially. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh spoke on his return from an aerial survey of the area, pegging the death toll at 102.

"It is feared that the loss of life could be much higher," he said.

Uttarakhand's top elected official, State Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna later told the New Delhi Television news channel that hundreds of people have lost their lives but that the exact number would be known only after a survey of the area.

A joint army and air force operation evacuated nearly 12,000 Hindu pilgrims stranded in a mountainous area by torrential monsoon rains and landslides, but nearly 63,000 people remained cut off, a senior official said Wednesday.

Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde earlier said the flooding in Uttarakhand washed away roads and nearly two dozen bridges and demolished 365 houses and partially damaged 275 others.

A three-story apartment building toppled into a river on Sunday and was carried away by the flood waters, said Amit Chandola, a Uttarakhand government spokesman, adding that a helicopter on its landing pad also was swept away. The government also said

40 small hotels on the banks of the Mandakini river in the Gaurikund area were destroyed by the swift-moving current.

Describing the situation as grim, Bahuguna said his administration was not equipped to tackle such a massive disaster, and asked for federal assistance. The region is 400 kilometers (250 miles) southwest of Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh state.

An additional 17 people have died since Sunday when their homes collapsed in Uttar Pradesh state, which borders Uttarakhand, said R.L. Vishwakarma, a state police officer. The flooding has affected several states and the capital, New Delhi, where nearly 2,000 people have been evacuated to govern-

ment-run camps on higher ground. Authorities there said the situation would ease as the level of the Yamuna River was expected to start receding Thursday afternoon. Flooding is an annual occurrence in India, which depends on monsoon rains to sustain agriculture. But the heavy downpours also cause the loss of lives and property.

Most of those stranded in Uttarakhand are Hindu pilgrims to four revered shrines in the region.

Bahuguna said the Kedarnath temple - one of the holiest Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva, located atop the Garhwal Himalayan range - had escaped major damage, but up to 10 feet (four meters) of debris covered the area around it.

"We are fully engaged in rescuing people who have been stranded in the higher reaches," Bahuguna told reporters earlier. Nearly 600 people were evacuated by air force helicopters and the rest by the army using land routes.

With the sky over Uttarakhand clearing up Wednesday, the helicopter operation concentrated on the worst-hit Kedarnath temple area, which received 380 millimeters (14 inches) of rain in the past week, nearly five times the average for that time period, said R.P.N. Singh, junior home minister.

Air force spokeswoman Priya Joshi said 22 helicopters have dropped food packets and other relief supplies in addition to ferrying stranded tourists. □

US, Cuba agree to resume migration talks

**MATTHEW LEE
PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press**

HAVANA (AP) — The United States and Cuba have agreed to resume bilateral talks on migration issues next month, a State Department official said Wednesday, the latest evidence of a thaw in chilly relations between the Cold War enemies.

Havana and Washington just wrapped up a round of separate negotiations aimed at restarting direct mail service, which has been suspended since 1963.

Both sets of talks have been on hold in recent years in a dispute over the fate of U.S. government subcontractor Alan Gross, who is serving a 15-year jail sentence in Havana after he was caught bringing communications equipment onto the island illegally.

The migration talks will be held in Washington on July 17.

The State Department official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly, spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Representatives from the Department of State are scheduled to meet with representatives of the Cuban government to discuss migration issues," the official said, adding that the talks were "consistent with our interest in promoting greater freedoms and respect for human rights in Cuba."

Word of the jump-started talks sparked an angry reaction from Cuban-American Republican Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, who blasted the Obama administration for what she saw as a policy of appeasement.

"First we get news that the

Obama State Department is speaking with a top Castro regime diplomat. Then comes the announcement that the administration is restarting talks with the dictatorship regarding direct mail between both countries," Ros-Lehtinen said. "Now we hear that migration talks will be restarted. It's concession after concession from the Obama

administration and social reforms the Cuban leader has instituted in recent years.

A nascent effort at rapprochement between Washington and Havana has stalled since Gross's arrest, and the resumption of the two sets of bilateral talks is sure to raise speculation that there could be movement on his case.

Gross was working on a

him available to high-level American delegations.

Cuba, for its part, is demanding the release of four of its intelligence agents serving long sentences in the United States. A fifth agent, Rene Gonzalez, returned home to Havana earlier this year after completing his sentence and agreeing to renounce his U.S. citizenship.

Geoff Thale, a Cuba ana-



Children play baseball in the streets of Old Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, June 11, 2013. United States and Cuba have agreed to resume bilateral talks on migration issues next month, a State Department official said Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

administration."

Since taking office, Obama has relaxed travel and remittance rules for Cuban Americans and made it far easier for others to visit the island for cultural, educational and religious reasons.

But Obama has continued to criticize the government of President Raul Castro for repression of basic civil and human rights, and his senior aides have offered little praise for a series of eco-

USAID democracy building program at the time of his arrest in December 2009. Washington has said repeatedly that no major improvement in relations can occur until he is released. His family has complained that he has lost a lot of weight in jail and suffers from various ailments. Cuba reportedly has agreed to allow a U.S. doctor to visit him in detention, and has also granted him conjugal visits and made

lyst at the Washington Office on Latin America think tank, said the resumption of talks, and the moves involving Gross and Gonzalez, are a sign that long-frozen relations could finally be improving.

"These are modest but sensible steps," he said. "What's significant is less the steps themselves than the fact that there is movement in the relationship. It's a real break from the status quo." □

Jamaica eyes expatriates as investments

**DAVID MCFADDEN
Associated Press**

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — In a bid to kick start Jamaica's chronically stagnant economy, the Caribbean country is wooing its citizens living abroad to invest in the island of their birth.

On Tuesday, hundreds of entrepreneurs and other Jamaican expatriates mingled with government officials and local business leaders, brainstorming ways to boost growth and development.

The sessions were part of a four-day "Jamaica Diaspora" conference aimed at tapping into the wealth, education and know-how of the island's expatriates.

"This can lead to a roadmap for Jamaica's future. The people who have come here to this conference have substantial knowledge, connections and interests that can help take the country's development into many, many directions," said Lloyd Grey, a retired engineer from Reading, England, who was raised on Jamaica but moved to Britain decades ago.

Jamaica and other Caribbean nations have long suffered from a "brain drain" that has seen professionals and skilled workers head off to jobs overseas.

About 3.3 million Jamaicans are believed to live outside the country, mostly in the U.S., Britain and Canada. Roughly 2.7 million live on the island.

The Jamaican expatriates already send home about \$2 billion a year in remittances in what has become the island's biggest foreign exchange earner. But Industry, Investment and Commerce Minister Anthony Hylton hopes to increase that amount to help strengthen the economy.

"Achieving sustained economic growth, with jobs, remains the biggest challenge and the most intractable problem facing Jamaica." □

World Bank gives Haiti \$20M to tidy public records

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— The World Bank has given \$20 million to Haiti for cleaning up its public resources and making them more transparent.

The grant will help Haiti improve public financial

management, procurement practices and performance of the national electrical company. It will also create a tracking system to monitor budgets and a single treasury account to manage funds.

The grant is the third approved for Haiti by the World Bank since last month. One was for a \$70 million maternal and child health project and the other for a \$20 million development and investment proj-

ect. Haitian governments have long had a reputation for corruption, and officials have done little to demonstrate transparency. The World Bank announced the latest grant Wednesday. □



Aruba launches Electric Festival for September 2013



– Phase 1 line-up includes Chuckie, Hardwell and Slash

ORANJESTAD - During the weekend of September 6 to 8, Aruba – with its warm waters and miles of white powdery beaches that have been named some of the best in the world – will host the launch of the Electric Festival (EF) which is to become the largest global and annual electronic music conference in the Caribbean. Hereby, showcasing Aruba's leading role in furthering the electronic dance movement in the Latin American and Caribbean region. EF will be more than just a dance music event by encompassing and portraying creative arts, cuisine and lifestyle in general. The first edition of EF will be held in Aruba in 2014 with a music conference powered by Amsterdam Dance Event



and a playground of studio sessions, workshops and exhibitions for DJs, producers, artists and fans. EF is being organized in conjunction with the Aruba Tourism Authority, Amsterdam Dance Event, Evenpro and Dirty

Dutch. The Aruba Tourism Authority is excited to be the main sponsor of EF as this event is to grow into an internationally respected event and become an independent driver of a new stream of visitors for the island. This will allow Aruba

to expand and renew the base of visitors and cater to future affluent generations of tourists.

This year, the launch of EF will include a series of events across the weekend. EF will include performances by Aruba resident, world-renowned and Forbes' Worlds Greatest DJs listed and music producer DJ Chuckie. Accompanying Chuckie will be former Guns N' Roses lead guitarist, Slash, who has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012.

Also present will be DJ Mag's prestigious Top 100 #6 ranked and IDMA's Best Breakthrough DJ of 2012 and Best European DJ of 2013, Hardwell. Last year, Chuckie proved that while Aruba may be small, it is a contender as one of the top EDM destinations. What started out as an event to celebrate the Dutch DJ, producer and label head's birthday

celebrations expanded to become an 8,000 capacity event, drawing a varied array of international stars that included the likes of Akon, Jasmine Villegas, Just Blaze, Robin van Persie and Dirk Kuyt (both soccer players for the Netherlands National Team).

This year's launch will also include a groundbreaking event for the youth of Aruba – Solarbeats. Solarbeats is an initiative of Play Foundation, a foundation that has been created with the purpose of bringing the youth closer to their love for music. During Solarbeats, Play Foundation will announce the Ultimate School contest where the winning school will win a party with DJ, Artist and Producer Chuckie and other gifts such as solar panels, whiteboards and iPads.

Full details on the full festival program and lineup will be revealed in the coming weeks. □

De Palm Tours supports Family First Foundation



ORANJESTAD - For over fifty years de Palm Tours has been successfully serving Aruba's tourism industry. In that time the company has also supported the local community in various ways, be it fundraising, coastal cleanups, sponsoring buses and vessels, etc. Late last year the owners of de Palm felt it was time the company put their support behind a charity or organi-

zation that tied in well the what De Palm stood for. "There are many organizations in Aruba that do very good work so the choices were numerous, but at the end of the day, the folks from Family First did a presentation that impressed us with what we were looking to support," says Warren Stanley General Manager of De Palm Tours. Family First was founded to help

and guide families in need. Ricky Malmberg, CEO of De Palm Tours explains: "We are a family company so our support of Family First ties in well with our core values. Approximately 70% of businesses on the island are family owned so a healthy family is a healthy economy. De Palm has committed to an amount of Afl. 100,000 annually to support the financial oper-



ations of the foundation as well as provide assistance using our other resources such as buses, know-how, etc to help with their fundraising".

The foundation has a center in Savanta where much of the work is done and where families in need can come for assistance. This center serves as an intermediary between the person or family that might not know the way to get through to a certain institution with their specific problem. Family First wants to guide the person or family so that at the end of the route, this family is better able to take care of itself. Family First's research led to the decision to focus on Savaneta for now where the need is greatest. However the intention is to open centers in other districts around the island. Over the past six months Family First has worked hard to launch the foundation and in addition to the assistance of de Palm other companies have also been generous with their assistance: Fantas-

tic Gardens, Delta Blue, Caribmedia, Robertson Fire Protection, Setar NV, Divi Impact, Cede Aruba, Franco Sneek and Kiwanis Young Professionals. "We are very appreciative and grateful to all these companies for their generous support and especially De Palm Tours and the Malmberg Family for their extensive support of the foundation," says Ms. Jenny Lion Sjin Tjoe, Managing Director of the foundation. Although the center is currently running and serving the community, the official opening will take place in August. For more information please call Family First at 584-2555, Savaneta 334 (in front of the Olympic Pool). □



**Beauty
On The
Beach**

**Virginia
Rasmijn**

She is married to a local and is staying at her family in law. This is her third visit and planning to stay in Aruba for a very long time.

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At the Radisson Aruba Resort:

Aruba Tourism Authority honors Joe and Linda Prussin!



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice family whom are Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as Distinguished Visitors, at their home away from home, Aruba! The symbolic

honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest who visits Aruba for between 10 and 20 years consecutive. The honorees are Joe and Linda Prussin of Butler, New Jersey, honored



as Distinguished Visitors for 10 years. All of the honorees are repeat guests of the Radisson Aruba Resort and have been enjoying the Island every year. Darline S. deCuba represent-

ing Aruba Tourism Authority together with Germaine Wever Front Office Manager and Louella Oduberand Mandy Henriquez conducted the ceremony at Radisson Hotel. The main

reason they return to Aruba is because they consider Aruba to be the Happy Island, the great weather, white sand beaches and the local food and friendly people. □

BONUS



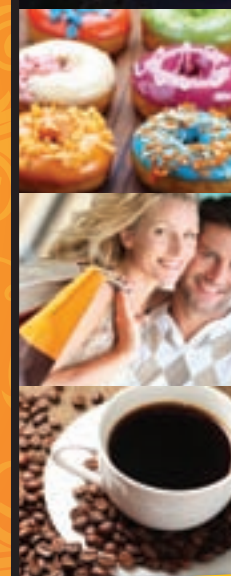
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Stichting voor Verstandelijk Gehandicapten Aruba: Charity Campaign by Banjolux: 'You Too Can Help!'

ORANJESTAD – We can still remember the last Banjolux' Facebook campaign! The success of the campaign allowed the winner to walk away with a Banjolux bathroom worth Afl. 20,000. This campaign was to support the new ad campaign of Banjolux. Banjolux is back with a new campaign. This time to benefit Charity; Stichting voor Verstandelijk Gehandicapten Aruba (SVGA). This 'Charity Campaign by Banjolux' started June 3rd and will continue till July 31. How can you help? Simple! 'Like' Banjolux' Facebook page (facebook.com/banjolux) and support the SVGA. For every new like, 1 florin will be saved for SVGA! On August 1st Banjolux will hand over a check to SVGA at the value of the saved amount. More 'likes' equals more money. As an appreciation to their loyal fan base, Banjolux will give away one gift certificate

to one of their Facebook fans, worth the exact same amount that was saved. The winner will be announced on August 1st. Charity Stichting voor Verstandelijk Gehandicapten Aruba (SVGA) founded in 1964, is a non-profit organization. The SVGA offers special education and physical- speech and vocational therapy to mentally disabled children and adults. A group of highly qualified and experienced full time speech therapists, psychologists, and social workers helped creating a special needs educational program. This is all thanks to the support SVGA has obtained from both the Aruban community and the government subsidies over the years. The SVGA exists of several specialized departments (schools), which serves to educate the client, depending on age and level. For more information about SVGA, visit their website at www.svga.aw



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

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Lucky #7: King James Excited for Final Game



Miami Heat's LeBron James smiles during a news conference, Wednesday, June 19, 2013 in Miami. The Heat host the San Antonio Spurs in Game 7 of the NBA Finals tonight.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James could not sleep after Game 6.

Imagine, then, how frayed his emotions will be going into Game 7.

So much is at stake. Legacies, for so many players, James included. The NBA championship. Whether the season was a success or a bust. How he will be portrayed over the next few months. How history will judge a Miami Heat team that won 27 straight games in one stretch, 66 games in the regular season and now 81 games overall.

Although the Heat will insist otherwise, the common belief is that it all hinges on James' shoulders. And the four-time NBA MVP wouldn't have it any other way when his Heat take on the San Antonio Spurs in Game 7 of the NBA Finals on Thursday night.

"I want to go down as one of the greatest. I want our team to go down as one of the greatest teams.

Continued on Page 20



Spectator Sport

*Woods to rest elbow,
skip AT&T National*

Tiger Woods reacts to a missed putt on the sixth hole during the third round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Merion Golf Club, in Ardmore, Pa. Woods said Wednesday, June 19, 2013, that doctors found a strain in his left elbow and advised that he take a few weeks off for rest and treatment.

(AP Photo/Darron Cummings)

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Woods to rest elbow, skip AT&T National

Continued from Page 17

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

Tiger Woods' sore left elbow will keep him out of

the Tiger Woods Foundation. "I was examined after I returned home from the U.S. Open, and the doctors determined I have a left

He said that he was "fine" when the first round was halted by darkness, offered few other details the next morning and only after he finished the second

Open and matching his highest total in any major. Woods said Friday his sore elbow would not have kept him from playing if it were not the U.S. Open. He was not asked about it the rest of the week.

His website said he felt minor discomfort before going to Merion and aggravated the area last week. It will be the 10th time Woods is unable to defend a title in official PGA Tour events, with six of those related to reconstructive surgery on his left knee after he won the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines.

The last time he failed to defend was in 2010 at Bay Hill, when he was returning from the scandal in his personal life.

Woods extended his regrets to AT&T, secondary sponsors and fans in Washington for not being able to play next week, though he indicated he would be at Congressional at some point to support the tournament.

"The AT&T National means a lot to me and my foundation," he said.

"It's especially difficult not defending at my own tournament. It's going to be a great event, and I look forward to being there to provide my support."

AT&T is under contract as title sponsor through 2014. □



Tiger Woods reacts after hitting from the rough on the fourth hole during the third round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa. Woods said Wednesday, June 19, 2013, on his website that doctors found a strain in his left elbow and advised that he take a few weeks off for rest and treatment. That means he will miss the AT&T National next week, the tournament that benefits the Tiger Woods Foundation.

(AP Photo/Darron Cummings)

competition until the British Open.

Woods said Wednesday on his website that doctors found a strain in his left elbow and advised that he take a few weeks off for rest and treatment. That means he will miss the AT&T National next week at Congressional, where he is the defending champion. The tournament benefits

elbow strain," Woods said. "I have been advised to take a few weeks off, rest and undergo treatment. I'll be ready to go for the British Open, and I'm looking forward to playing at Muirfield."

Woods began flexing his left wrist after hacking several shots out of the thick rough at Merion during the first round of the U.S. Open.

round did he reveal scant details of the injury.

He said it first occurred at The Players Championship, which he won May 12 for his fourth victory this year. But he did not say in which round it occurred, or even the type of shot that caused the injury.

Woods wound up at 13-over 293 at Merion, his worst score ever for a U.S.

WIMBLEDON Rafael Nadal seeded No. 5

STEVE DOUGLAS
AP Sports Writer

If Rafael Nadal is going to win Wimbledon for a third time, he'll have to do it the hard way.

Fresh from winning his eighth French Open, Nadal is seeded only No. 5 at Wimbledon — setting up



Spain's Rafael Nadal at Roland Garros stadium in Paris.
(AP Photo/Christophe Ena)

the possibility of a quarterfinal match against title contenders Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic or Andy Murray.

The All England Club released the seedings Wednesday for this year's grass-court Grand Slam, which starts Monday. The top five in the ATP rankings remain in their positions: Djokovic at No. 1, followed by Murray, Federer, David Ferrer and Nadal.

Nadal slipped down the rankings after being sidelined for about seven months with a left knee injury following his surprise loss to Lukas Rosol in the second round at Wimbledon last year.

The Spaniard has won seven of the nine tournaments he has entered in his comeback — including the French Open last month — but he still fell to No. 5 after Roland Garros behind the man he beat in the final — Ferrer.

Wimbledon's seeding order is determined using the ATP rankings and points are added for achievements in grass-court tournaments in the past 12 months. □

Rose running on adrenaline after US Open victory

PAT EATON-ROBB
Associated Press
CROMWELL, Connecticut

(AP) — Justin Rose took care of winning his first major championship last week. This week is more about enjoying himself and playing with the confidence of a U.S. Open champion, Rose said Wednesday.

Rose, who is now ranked third in the world, leads a field of 156 players at the Travelers Championship, on the par-70 TPC River Highlands course that invites golfers to try for birdies. Last year's winner, Marc Leishman, shot a 14-under par, 266.

"It's a perfect week for the week after a major," said

Rose, who won last week with a score of 1-over 281. "It's got challenges out there, but the challenge is, can you go low?"

Rose said he planned in advance to play a three-week stretch starting at Merion, and loves the TPC River Highlands course, where he has three top-10 finishes in seven starts. But he acknowledged being a bit tired and said he might have to rely on the adrenaline of his U.S. Open victory to help him through this week. He arrived Tuesday night after a flurry of media appearances in New York. "I was doing my best to try to soak in being the U.S. Open champion," he said.

"Went on some great shows I've seen on TV, and then to be part of it, is a slightly surreal moment too."

He said he's also looking forward to getting some sleep, some regular meals, and spending time with his children for the first time since hoisting the trophy on Sunday.

"They couldn't care less about the big shiny trophy in the house, to be honest with you," he said. "My little boy for Father's Day made me like a clay trophy, which he colored in. So I told him that was my favorite trophy in the house. So he's good." Rose, who is now ranked third in the world, is one of just six top-20 players in

the Travelers field. The others are Lee Westwood (12), Keegan Bradley (14), Jason Dufner (17), Ian Poulter (18), and Bubba Watson (19).

Web Simpson (21) also is playing a year after he, too, won the U.S. Open and kept his commitment to play in Cromwell.

But the tournament has a reputation for discovering new talent. The last three champions, including Leishman and Watson, have won their first PGA Tour title here.

"People know my name now," Leishman said. "No one ever knew who I was. I'd get here and the crowd was like, 'Who is this bloke here?' □

Arizona beats Miami 3-1 on Ross' pinch-hit HR

BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) -- Cody Ross can see clearly now, so he must have had a nice view as his decisive pinch-hit home run sailed into the left-field seats.

Ross' three-run shot in the eighth inning spoiled an outstanding outing by Mi-

ami's young Jose Fernandez, and the Arizona Diamondbacks held off the Marlins 3-1 on Wednesday to take two of three in the series.

Fernandez (4-4) retired 14 in a row before walking two of the three batters he faced in the eighth. He was relieved by left-hander

Mike Dunn, who gave up the home run to Ross on a 1-2 pitch.

"I was just trying to create something," Ross said. "It hasn't been too often this year that I've contributed, so it feels nice."

Ross says he has been bothered by blurred vision all season with problems

with his contact lenses drying out, but a three-hour trip to the eye doctor on Wednesday finally found the right combination of lenses and eye drops.

"Honestly I was going up there with blurry vision half the time at the plate," Ross said. "It's hard enough to hit in this league when you've got good vision, as opposed to going up with blurry vision. But it's just one of those things where you don't want to make excuses, but it's a true story. It was tough."

Arizona starter Trevor Cahill left after a line drive bruised his right hip in the first. Josh Collmenter allowed one hit in six innings of relief, the latest in a series of his effective long-inning relief outings.

"It's kind of unbelievable what he can do," Cahill said, "pitch like a starter in

a moment's notice. That's why he's invaluable."

Cahill said he thought he could have stayed in and pushed through the injury but the decision was made to play it safe.

Justin Ruggiano homered off Heath Bell to start the ninth. Bell flirted with bigger trouble before recording his 13th save in 15 tries.

After Ruggiano's homer, Ed Lucas singled to bring up Giancarlo Stanton, whose home run off Bell on Friday gave Miami a 3-2 victory. Stanton walked on five pitches to put runners on first and second with no outs. Bell got Marcell Ozuna on a flyout, catcher Miguel Montero made a nice sliding catch of Derek Dietrich's foul to the screen and pinch-hitter Logan Morrison struck out to give Arizona two of three against Miami.

□

Arizona Diamondbacks' Cody Ross connects for a three-run home run against the Miami Marlins during the eighth inning of a baseball game on Wednesday, June 19, 2013, in Phoenix. The Diamondbacks defeated the Marlins 3-1.

(AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)



Blanco's 2-run triple in 7th helps Giants win, 4-2

RICK EYMER

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- Gregor Blanco has learned to think like a run producer. Normally a leadoff hitter, Blanco has been used in the middle of the order more often. When he comes up with runners on, he has the mindset to drive in runs rather than just trying to get on base. Blanco had a pinch hit, two-run triple in the seventh inning, leading the San Francisco Giants to a 4-2 victory over the San Diego Padres on Wednesday.

"When they want me batting sixth or seventh, it means they want me to drive in runs," Blanco said. "So when I came up to hit I told myself I had better drive these people in."

With a big part of its offense on the disabled list, the Giants have turned to players like Blanco, a career .383 hitter with runners in scoring position, to pick up the slack.

"We're getting good games from a lot of guys," Giants catcher Buster Posey said. Brandon Belt and Marco Scutaro also drove in runs as the Giants won their second straight following a three-game slide. Scutaro and Hunter Pence each had two hits.

"Gregor has played well all season," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "He comes through in the clutch, has speed and is a tremendous defender. He's just getting better and better."

Will Venable and Jesus Guzman each hit home runs for the Padres, who have lost two straight after a seven-game winning streak.

"Guzzie is a guy who is seeing the ball well and he's got the strength to hit it out of the park," Padres manager Bud Black said.

Madison Bumgarner (7-4) won his third straight start after allowing two runs and three hits over seven in-

nings. He walked four and struck out eight.

Padres starter Eric Stults gave up two runs and seven hits over 6 1-3 innings.



San Diego Padres starting pitcher Eric Stults throws against the San Francisco Giants in the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, June 19, 2013 in San Francisco. The Giants went on to beat the Padres 4-2.

(AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

He walked two and struck out three.

"Stults pitched great," Black said. "It was a well-pitched game by both guys. They have a good

pitching staff and we feel ours is rounding into form." Luke Gregerson (4-3) did not retire a batter, giving up two runs and four hits.

hopped the fence in right-center field. "I wanted to be aggressive," Blanco said. "I was looking for location and wanted to put a good swing on it."

Scutaro followed with an RBI single and Posey singled before Tyson Ross came on to strike out Pence and Joaquin Arias. He also struck out the side in the eighth.

Jake Dunning pitched the eighth and Sergio Romo worked the ninth for his 18th save in 21 chances.

The benches cleared briefly in the second inning when Guzman took a few steps toward the mound after a pitch from Bumgarner sailed behind his back.

"I was mad because it was just too obvious to me," Guzman said. "It's OK. I will forget about that moment. I play for my team and I play to win. We'll just play and see what happens." Posey said it was nothing more than missed location. □

LeBron excited for deciding Game 7

Continued from Page 17

And we have an opportunity to do that," James said. "Hasn't been many teams to win back-to-back championships. It's so hard. It's the hardest thing. I said last year it was the hardest thing I've ever done, winning my first. Last year

said. "I wasn't supposed to be in the NBA, if you go by statistics and things of me growing up where I grew up. Every time I go into my locker room and see the 'James' on the back of an NBA jersey, I'm like, 'Wow.' No criticism can deter me from playing this game because of that. I'm not sup-

win, one that left Miami exhausted and San Antonio devastated. They collide one last time on Thursday with all eyes on James, who struggled for much of the game and still finished with 32 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists. "He had an 'off' triple-double," Heat guard Mike



Miami Heat small forward LeBron James (6) reacts on the floor against the San Antonio Spurs during the second half of Game 6 of the NBA Finals basketball game, Tuesday, June 18, 2013 in Miami. Miami forced a title-deciding Game 7 by defeating San Antonio 103-100 in overtime in Game 6.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

don't even come close to what we've gone through in this postseason and in these Finals."

James was so weary afterward that he had trouble pulling himself up from the chair where he conducted postgame interviews. But on Wednesday, even after a night of no sleep — "everything goes through your mind after a game," he said — James said he was already feeling more spry than he was the night before. More rest, more treatment, some time at home with family and friends and a scheduled 9 p.m. date to watch *SpongeBob* with his kids, James figured that was the right formula to get ready for Game 7. His second ring is 48 minutes away. If it comes, it will be earned.

"First of all, I'm blessed, man. I don't even know how I got here," James

posed to be here."

He means that in a more broad sense, but in simplest terms, that also applies to Thursday night. The Heat probably aren't supposed to be there. They were down by five points with less than a half-minute to go in regulation of Game 6. The championship celebration was being readied, literally around them. The Spurs were about to get their hands on the Larry O'Brien Trophy, and the Heat were about to slink off into another offseason of utter disappointment. Until, of course, none of that happened.

James made a 3-pointer to get Miami within two, and after the Spurs gave Miami life by missing a free throw, Ray Allen sent it to overtime with another 3-pointer. In the extra session, James and the Heat found a way to pull out a 103-100

Miller said. "I can't have an 'on' triple-double."

In James' lifetime, only four franchises — Chicago, the Los Angeles Lakers, Detroit and Houston — have won consecutive championships.

If Miami pulls this off, a second straight Finals MVP award will likely be his. He'll be a two-time champion, to go along with his two Olympic gold medals. Others have won more titles and more MVPs, but poking holes in James' resume will become a considerably tougher task, even for his biggest naysayers.

"We can't worry about what the history books say. That's why it's history," James said. "We have to live in the present. We have to live in the moment. And we have to do whatever it takes to bring that trophy — or to keep that trophy — here in Miami." □

Stoda Column: If Heat lose Game 7, gains will be mocking reminders of failure

Greg Stoda

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

MIAMI -- They came scurrying down a hallway into their locker room, the Heat did, streaming into a new life.

There was no grand chorus of whooping or hollering. But there was an undeniable rush of relief.

They had earned that new life Tuesday night on their home court with a pulsating 103-100 overtime win against San Antonio to even the NBA Finals at three victories apiece.

It had required a game-tying, 3-point shot from the right corner by Ray Allen with 5.2 seconds remaining in regulation in the wake of LeBron James' fabulous fourth quarter (16 points).

Allen then sealed the verdict with a steal and two free throws for the game's final points with 1.9 seconds remaining in overtime.

The Heat, facing elimination, had stolen themselves another chance.

The prep work -- a rope at the ready to use on the floor -- was even in place for a trophy presentation featuring the Spurs ... before Allen did what he did. Allen, in his first Miami season after signing as a free agent out of Boston, where he was an integral part of the Celtics' visceral rivalry with the Heat, was typically analytical of his big shot.

"I work on it quite often. It wasn't unfamiliar to me positionally," Allen explained. "I was expecting to make it. My mental checklist is really to have my legs ready."

James insisted he was confident that Allen -- a 3-point shooter extraordinaire throughout a terrific career -- would come through.

"Once Ray got them feet down, I was like, 'It's going in,'" James said.

The buzzword for the Heat, now, with the season simmering to Thursday night's boil of a Game 7 is this: definition.

That's what the three-year

journey has come to for Miami.

The alliance formed forever and not-so-long ago -- James and Chris Bosh signing on to join forces with Dwyane Wade -- for the specific and sole purpose of winning titles will write its own definition of itself on the basis of a single result.

The definition of Project Heat -- a dynamic team with dynastic intent -- will be set in deepest relief on the outcome of the next game.

The fairness or unfairness of it all is moot.

If the Big Three didn't expect to be measured by unyielding standards from the moment they celebrated their alliance, well, then one of them is more naive than the other and the other.

These are "big boy" stakes, to borrow a phrase used by San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich, and the Heat long have been the biggest boys on the NBA block.

The Heat's 66-win regular season means nothing without a title.

The Heat's 27-game winning streak during the regular season means nothing without a title.

James' fourth MVP award means nothing without a title.

If anything, in fact, those accomplishments will stand as mocking reminders of what Miami couldn't do when the games mattered most if the Heat lose Thursday night.

But the Heat are still breathing when it looked for all the world that they were finished.

Allen did that for them. "He's the greatest shooter of all time," said Bosh, who got the ball to Allen after rebounding a James miss on a triple. "How he was open, I don't know."

The shot capped a Miami comeback from 13 points behind late in the third quarter, and by 10 behind to start the fourth. □

Confederations Cup:

Neymar leads Brazil to 2-0 win over Mexico

TALES AZZONI
AP Sports Writer

FORTALEZA, Brazil (AP) — Neymar made the difference for Brazil again on Wednesday, scoring in the ninth minute and making one for Jo to give the hosts a 2-0 win over Mexico and

penalty box after Mexican defenders failed to clear a cross, then slipped past two defenders at once to set up Jo for an easy goal in second-half injury time. "I'm happy to have played well again," Neymar said. "But what was more im-

Mexico, which had won two of its last three matches against Brazil, fought strongly but had little finishing power up front. The result leaves the Mexicans in a near impossible position to advance in the World Cup warm-up competi-

remain without a point. The top two teams in each of the groups advance to the next round of the eight-team tournament among continental champions. One of Brazil's recent loss to Mexico was in the Olympic final last year, when the team led by Neymar and Oscar were considered

favorites to win Brazil's first gold medal in football but failed to come out victorious.

"We had been having problems with Mexico recently and that Olympic final was still in the mind of some of our players who were there," Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said. □



Brazil's Hulk, left, performs a bicycle kick as Mexico's Jorge Torres, right, looks on during the soccer Confederations Cup group A match between Brazil and Mexico at Castelao stadium in Fortaleza, Brazil, Wednesday, June 19, 2013. (AP Photo/Natasha Pisarenko)

virtually secure a spot in the semifinals of the Confederations Cup. The Brazilian striker scored his second goal of the tournament with a left-footed volley from just inside the

portant was that the team had a good performance. We are improving game after game and we are getting better. This gives us more confidence for the next matches."

tion. Brazil opened with a 3-0 win over Japan, while Mexico lost 2-1 to Italy. Brazil leads the group with six points, three more than Italy. Mexico and Japan

US, Costa Rica win to close on WCup spots

SANDY, Utah (AP) — The United States and Costa Rica both closed in on place at next year's World Cup by winning their home matches in Tuesday's CONCACAF qualifiers. The U.S. had a 1-0 win over Honduras, with Jozy Altidore scoring the sole goal in the 73rd minute, while Costa Rica recorded a 2-0 victory over Panama. With six of ten games played in the six-team group, the U.S. is in top spot in the standings on 13 points while Costa Rica is second with 11 points. With the top three teams to qualify directly to Brazil 2014, Mexico is in third place on eight points, just a point ahead of Honduras in fourth, which yields a place in a further intercontinental

playoff. Panama is a point further back in fifth while Jamaica is last on just two points. Honduras was the last visiting team to win at the United States in a World Cup qualifying match, back in 2001. The Americans have won or drawn 25 straight at home since then. The visitors made it difficult on the Americans for much of the game by slowing the pace before Altidore broke through, taking a cross from Fabian Johnson and shooting across the goalkeeper and inside the right post. "The team now understands it's not only a physical grind you put into these games. It's a mental one," coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. "Mentally we're getting stronger. We're getting

tougher. We are now prepared to go through the games." It was Altidore's ninth goal in a qualifier as he finally develops into the scoring threat the United States has hoped for. We are very happy for Jozy," Klinsmann said. "We always told him from a coaching perspective that it takes a lot of hard work, it takes a lot of adjustment, it takes the right moment to be there, it takes the hunger. The energy he has put in the last four or five games has been tremendous. It's not only that he scored those goals, the work he does for the team is awesome." Costa Rica also had to wait until the second half to break through against Panama.

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JUNE 20 - 26

NEW THIS WEEK!

WORLD WAR Z
3D VERSION
MON - THURS 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25
FRI 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:00
SAT 1:55 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25

ON TWO SCREENS

REGULAR VERSION
MON - THURS 5:40 | 8:15
FRI 5:40 | 8:15 | 10:40
SAT 3:05 | 5:40 | 8:15 | 10:40
SUN & HOL 3:05 | 5:40 | 8:15

MONSTERS UNIVERSITY
3D VERSION
MON - THURS 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40
FRI 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40 | 10:55
SAT 1:55 | 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40 | 10:55
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40

MAN OF STEEL
3D VERSION WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - FRI 6:00 | 9:05
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:00 | 6:00 | 9:05

ON TWO SCREENS

REGULAR VERSION WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - THURS 5:00 | 8:05
FRI 5:00 | 8:05 | 11:10
SAT 2:00 | 5:00 | 8:05 | 11:10
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 5:00 | 8:05

The Internship
MON - FRI 6:50
SAT, SUN & HOL 1:50 | 6:50

THIS IS THE END
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - THURS 4:20 | 9:30
FRI & SAT 4:20 | 9:30 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 4:20 | 9:30

THE HANGOVER: PART III
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - THURS 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35
FRI 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 12:00
SAT 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35

AFTER EARTH
MON - FRI 4:40 | 7:00
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00

FAST & FURIOUS 6
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON - FRI 9:20
SAT, SUN & HOL 9:20

STUDY Sharp drop in HPV infections in US females

SABRINA TAVERNISE
© 2013 New York Times

The prevalence of dangerous strains of the human papillomavirus - the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States and a principal cause of cervical cancer - has dropped by half among teenage girls in the last decade, a striking measure of success for a vaccine that was introduced only in 2006, federal health officials said Wednesday.

Infection with the viral strains that cause cancer dropped to 3.6 percent among girls ages 14 to 19 in 2010, from 7.2 percent in 2006, a new study has found. The vaccine protects against strains of the HPV virus that cause 70 percent of cervical cancers. "These are striking results," said Thomas R. Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "They should be a wake-up call that we need to increase vaccination rates."

The study, published in the June issue of The Journal of Infectious Diseases, covered the years 2003 to 2010. Its findings were based on a national survey that is conducted every two years and considered the gold standard on health indicators.

The decline surprised public health experts because vaccination rates in the U.S. are still relatively low. Only about a third of teenage girls have been vaccinated with the full course of three doses, far lower than in other rich countries like Denmark and Britain, where vaccination rates are above 80 percent. Even Rwanda, a developing country in central Africa, has reached 80 percent.

Health officials offered several possible explanations for why the drop was so sharp despite the fact that most teenage girls in the U.S. are still not fully vaccinated. □

AMA officially recognizes obesity as a disease

ANDREW POLLACK
© 2013 New York Times

The American Medical Association has officially recognized obesity as a disease, a move that could induce physicians to pay more attention to the condition and spur more insurers to pay for treatments. In making the decision, delegates at the association's annual meeting in Chicago overrode a recommendation against doing so by a committee that had studied the matter.

"Recognizing obesity as a disease will help change the way the medical community tackles this complex issue that affects approximately 1 in 3 Americans," Dr. Patrice Harris, a member of the association's board, said in a statement. She suggested the new definition would help in the fight against Type 2 diabetes and heart disease, which are linked to obesity. To some extent, the question of whether obesity is a disease or not is a semantic one, since there is not even a universally agreed upon definition of what constitutes a disease. And the AMA's decision has no

legal authority. Still, some doctors and obesity advocates said that having the nation's largest physician group make the declaration would focus more attention on obesity. It could also help improve reimbursement for

Downey Obesity Report. "Companies marketing the products will be able to take this to physicians and point to it and say, 'Look, the mother ship has now recognized obesity as a disease.'"

The vote of the AMA House



Two overweight women hold a conversation in New York. The AMA has officially recognized obesity as a disease, a move that could induce physicians to pay more attention to the condition and spur more insurers to pay for treatments.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

obesity drugs, surgery and counseling. "I think you will probably see from this physicians taking obesity more seriously, counseling their patients about it," said Morgan Downey, an advocate for obese people and publisher of the online

of Delegates went against the conclusions of the association's Council on Science and Public Health, which had studied the issue over the past year. The council said that obesity should not be considered a disease mainly because

the measure usually used to define obesity, the body mass index, is simplistic and flawed. Some people with a BMI above the level that usually defines obesity are perfectly healthy while others below it can have dangerous levels of body fat and metabolic problems associated with obesity.

"Given the existing limitations of BMI to diagnose obesity in clinical practice, it is unclear that recognizing obesity as a disease, as opposed to a 'condition' or 'disorder,' will result in improved health outcomes," the council wrote.

The council summarized the arguments for and against calling obesity a disease. One reason in favor, it said, was that it would reduce the stigma of obesity that stems from the widespread perception that it is simply the result of eating too much or exercising too little. Some doctors say that people do not have full control over their weight.

Supporters of the disease classification also say it fits some medical criteria of a disease, such as impairing body function. □

Report:

US adult smoking rate dips to 18 percent

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Fewer U.S. adults are smoking, a new government report says.

described themselves as current smokers.

The U.S. smoking rate generally has been falling for decades, but had seemed

to 19 percent, but that might have been a statistical blip.

Health officials are analyzing the 2012 findings and have not yet concluded why the rate dropped, a spokesman for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. The CDC released its study Tuesday. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable illness and death in the United States. It's responsible for the majority of lung cancer deaths and is a deadly factor in heart attacks and a variety of other illnesses. Concerned about the stalled smoking rate, the CDC launched a graphic advertising campaign last year that was the agency's largest and starkest anti-smoking push. The campaign triggered an in-

crease of 200,000 calls to quit lines, and CDC officials said thousands of smokers probably went on to kick the habit. The CDC did a second wave of the ads earlier this year.

The new report is from a survey of about 35,000 U.S. adults. Current smokers were identified as those who said they had smoked more than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and now smoke every day or some days. The rate was only 9 percent for people ages 65 and older, but about 20 percent for younger adults. More men than women described themselves as current smokers.

The report did not include teens. About 16 percent of high school students were smokers in 2011, according to an earlier CDC report. □



Smoking is the leading cause of preventable illness and death in the United States. Fewer U.S. adults are smoking, a new government report says.

(Handout Photo)

Last year, about 18 percent of adults participating in a national health survey

to stall at around 20 to 21 percent for about seven years. In 2011, the rate fell

GEEK NOTES:

Tech experts review the best of everyday gadgets

© 2013 New York Times

HEADPHONES WITH GREAT SOUND

Expanding its stable of audio products, Sol Republic recently introduced a line of low-price in-ear headphones called Jax.

Jax headphones are about \$40 each, or \$20 less than Amp headphones, their counterparts at Sol Republic. The sound engine in Jax is new, but not as powerful as Amp's. Still, Jax delivers clarity and a booming bass, Sol Republic's signature sound.

Meant for everyday use, Jax has a flat cord that won't tangle and, at 54 inches, allows for considerable movement. The durable cord is equally capable on the go. It can plug into an iPhone and slide into a pocket without disconnecting.

The earbuds, however, were a bit too heavy and had a tendency to pop out of my ears. And that long cord actually worked against the headphones, constantly tugging at the earbuds.

A three-button remote control and microphone at the yoke allows for adjusting the volume and switching to phone calls on Apple devices. The remote

also works as a single-button universal control that is compatible with other devices, including Android phones like the Samsung Galaxy.

phones, but the design could be improved.

- GREGORY SCHMIDT BLUETOOTH BEACON

In the ranks of nagging annoyances, the search for

or anything else you might lose. You can use your phone to home in on the beacon.

On the plus side, the little gizmos are easy to use.

A free Stick-N-Find app goes on an iPhone 5 or 4S, the new iPad, iPad mini, the new iPod touch, or any Android phone with Bluetooth Low Energy and system 4.1. The phone then acts as a homing device that lets you zero in on up to 20 different little Bluetooth beacons. You name each beacon using the app, so you can always track down the right item. When you come within range, you can press a button on the phone that causes the beacon to chirp and light up. You can also create an electronic leash that sets off the chirp when the beacons are outside of tracking range.

But it still needs refinement: the homing app is not directional. While the app shows a clever radar-style screen, it tells you roughly how far you are from your beacon, but not in which direction.

Another drawback is that the app measures the distance between you and the beacon in something called "radio feet." When the phone was close enough to touch the beacon, the app put the distance at three radio feet. Fifteen feet away read 255 radio feet. □



An undated handout photo of the Stick-N-Find, a bluetooth beacon that can be homed in on with a smart phone. The device contains an adhesive backing that you can stick to your keys or anything else you might lose.

(Handout via The New York Times)

The Jax headphones come in blue or white and are available on the Sol Republic website and at electronics retailers. They offer great sound and are a good alternative to higher-price in-ear head-

misplaced keys (especially when you are late) is pretty high.

A product called Stick-N-Find has a solution: a Bluetooth beacon with an adhesive backing that you can stick to your keys

The adhesive-backed disks, about the size of two stacked quarters, stick to keys, luggage, your glasses case, the TV remote, your wallet - basically anything you might lose between the couch cushions.

Global mobile competition shifts focus to software design

NICK BILTON

© 2013 New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO - Last week, Timothy D. Cook, Apple's chief executive, stood on stage at the company's Worldwide Developers Conference without a new version of the iPhone or the iPad or some new device. After showing off new laptop computers and a new, cylindrical Mac Pro, Cook and other Apple executives spent the rest of their two-hour keynote address discussing the features of Apple's latest mobile operating system, iOS 7. With the image of a flattened smartphone interface with thin typography on a screen in the background, Cook proudly noted, "This is

the biggest change to iOS since the introduction of the iPhone."

How does he figure that?

Cook's bold claim was based on something that is well understood in tech circles but is easily overlooked by consumers. It is the design of the software, far more than the look and feel of the device itself, that allows a company to leap over its competitors.

Hardware features like processing speed or screen resolution or even how well a camera works offer only fleeting advantages in the constant competition among smartphone manufacturers. And with more than 1 billion smartphones in the world today, many

of them with the same rectangular design meant to fit in your hand yet large enough to be used as a phone, it is hard to imagine a breakthrough in their general look.

But changes to the software are limited only by the skill and creativity of a company's engineers and designers, and are not as easily mimicked since they appeal to softer notions like "experience" rather than speed or weight.

Designers at Apple, Microsoft and Google appear to have been keenly aware of that when they worked on the latest versions of their mobile operating systems, experimenting with ways of making software that are

unique yet as intuitive as a road sign.

"I have my home, I have my office and I now I have my phone interface," said Paola Antonelli, senior curator of architecture and design at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. "When you turn a smartphone off it is an enigmatic monolith; it's the interface that not only animates it but gives it meaning."

Antonelli said she hoped to one day include iOS 7 in MoMA's design collection. In the first quarter of 2013, Windows Phone nudged BlackBerry to become the third most popular phone operating system globally, according to a report by IDC, a market research

firm. Microsoft shipped 7 million Windows Phone 7 devices in the first quarter, compared with 6.3 million BlackBerry devices.

BlackBerry is trying to rebound with a new version of its phone with software that has also changed considerably from older versions.

Béhar said a good software design would always help sell more hardware.

"We are in an era where the 30-second TV ad doesn't count anymore," he said. "The product - the smartphone - is its own form of advertising today and a good experience, where people want to spend more time with the product, is what people see." □

Stocks slide as Fed hints at scaling back stimulus plan

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Financial markets shuddered Wednesday after the Federal Reserve said it could start scaling back its huge economic stimulus program later this year and end it by the middle of 2014.

The reaction by investors — the Dow Jones industrial

average fell more than 200 points and the yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to its highest in 15 months — showed just how much investors have come to depend on the Fed's easy money policies that have helped send the stock market up 141 percent in the past four years.

"Any whiff there's going to be reduction in the (Fed's)

ammunition is met with selling," said James Camp, managing director of fixed income at Eagle Asset Management.

The selloff was broad. All 10 sectors in the Standard's & Poor's 500 were down.

The Fed's \$85 billion in monthly bond purchases have helped the U.S. economy by keeping long-term interest rates low and en-

couraging borrowing and investing. Now, it looks like the Fed is closer to ending that program as the U.S. economy improves.

A brighter outlook for the U.S. economy normally would convince people to buy stocks, not sell them. But Talley Leger, a strategist at Macro Vision Research, said investors have become hooked on Fed stimulus and so sold.

"Markets are asking for expansion of already stimulative policies, and they're not getting it," he said. "It's like a drug supplier and an addict."

The stock market drifted lower for most of the day, ahead of a scheduled statement from the Fed and a press conference by Chairman Ben Bernanke.

The Standard & Poor's 500 was down about half a percentage point shortly after the Fed released its statement. Then Bernanke took questions from reporters. In response to one he said that the Fed could scale back its bond purchases later this year, and the selling accelerated.

Bonds and stocks both slumped even though Bernanke said that the central bank would only cut back on its stimulus once the

economy had improved sufficiently and was in no hurry to raise rates.

"There is going to be some nervousness as we adjust to a more normal economic environment," said Brad Sorensen, director of market and sector research at Charles Schwab. "Both the stock and bond markets are adjusting to a Federal Reserve that isn't going to have the spigots wide open." Bond yields spiked as investors anticipated a slowdown in the Fed's purchases. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note jumped to 2.31 percent, its highest in 15 months. The yield on the note started the day at 2.21 percent.

An index measuring the dollar against six other currencies surged 1 percent. The dollar rose against the Japanese yen, the euro and other currencies as traders anticipated higher U.S. rates.

The S&P 500 index fell 22.88 points, or 1.4 percent, to 1,628.93.

Declines were led by high-dividend stocks like telecommunications and utilities, which are more sensitive to rising interest rates. Investors had bought these stocks for their dividend income when bond yields were at record low levels.

AT&T and Verizon, the stocks with the highest dividends in the Dow, fell the most in the index. Verizon slumped \$1.50, or 2.9 percent, to \$50.05 and AT&T fell 92 cents, or 2.5 percent, to \$35.25.

For weeks, investors have been trying to figure out when the central bank will start to ease back on its bond purchases. They overreacted Wednesday to the possibility of less stimulus, some analysts said. The economy will be strong enough for the Fed to start cutting back this year.

"I'm not really seeing a lot of reason for bonds to be selling off like they have or for the (stock) market to be down," said Scott Wren, a senior equity strategist at Wells Fargo Advisors. "If the market sells off on this, you have to view it as an opportunity," to buy. □



Trader Timothy Pastina works on his handheld device, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, June 19, 2013. Stocks edged lower in trading on Wall Street Wednesday as investors digested the reports from the Federal Reserve.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

FedEx 4Q profit drops as priority services lag

DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — FedEx Corp.'s fourth-quarter profit fell 45 percent as international customers traded down to less-expensive delivery options.

Excluding charges, the results still beat Wall Street expectations. But the company's forecast for the next 12 months was shy of Wall Street forecasts and shares fell in premarket trading.

The world's second-largest package delivery company said Wednesday that it earned \$303 million, or 95 cents per share, in the fourth quarter ended May 31. That's down from \$550 million, or \$1.73 per share, a year ago.

FedEx said that excluding restructuring costs and

an aircraft write-down, it would have earned \$2.13 per share, which beat analysts' forecast of \$1.96 per share in adjusted earnings. The company is trying to cut annual spending by \$1.7 billion by 2016. The steps include buyouts intended to reduce the work force by at least 10 percent by May 2014. FedEx said Wednesday that about 3,600 employees who applied for a buyout will leave the company. Of those, 40 percent left on May 31.

Severance and other restructuring costs totaled \$496 million, or 98 cents per share, after taxes. The company also took a write-down of \$100 million, or 20 cents per share, as it retired 10 airplanes during the quarter.

For the fiscal year that started June 1, the company forecast that adjusted earnings will grow between 7 percent and 13 percent. That would suggest a range of \$6.67 to \$7.04 per share. Analysts surveyed by FactSet were expecting \$7.28 per share in the new year. Fourth-quarter revenue rose 4 percent to \$11.44 billion, just below analysts' forecast of \$11.46 billion. The shares fell 54 cents to \$98.94 in premarket trading. Through Tuesday, they had gained 8.5 percent so far in 2013.

Chairman and CEO Fred Smith said the company's ground-services business remained strong and margins improved in the freight business during the fourth quarter.

"These positive developments did not fully offset tepid economic growth and customer preference for less costly international shipping services," Smith said in a statement issued by the company.

FedEx Express plans to further cut delivery capacity between Asia and the United States in July.

FedEx delivers shipments from businesses to consumers and other companies. Because its customers span so many industries, it's often seen as an economic bellwether. The Memphis, Tennessee-based company has been dealing with a slump in high-end express-delivery services as customers try to save money by picking cheaper but slower shipping options. □

Airbus clocks 59 orders for new A350 wide-body jet

LE BOURGET, France (AP) — Airbus raked in orders Wednesday for its new A350, announcing 59 sales of the wide-body jet that flew for the first time last week. Singapore Airlines ordered 30 A350-900s, with an op-

tion to buy another 20 of the 900s or the larger 1000 model. The airline had already ordered 20 of the A350.

Air France-KLM also put in an order for 25 A350 jets, saying the plane will be central to its plan to ex-

pand long-haul flights after years of struggling against discount carriers in Europe. Airbus also announced that SriLankan Airlines, the country's national carrier, would buy four A350s and six slightly smaller A330 jets. Wednesday's announce-

ments at the Paris Air Show represent a vote of confidence in the A350, which Airbus is hoping will help it catch up to Boeing's popular 787 and 777 in the lucrative field of long-haul wide-body jets. The A350, which typically seats 314 passengers, has a list price of \$287.7 million; the A330, which doesn't fly as far as the A350, has a list price of \$239.4 million.

The A350 makes extensive use of lightweight carbon fiber, at a time when fuel costs are a major concern. Potential customers at the air show haven't been able to see the plane at Le Bourget — the plane is not yet cleared for flight there. First deliveries of the plane are expected in mid-2014. The SriLankan Airlines' deal is worth around \$2.8 billion at list prices, while Singapore Airline's firm order is worth \$8.6 billion at list prices.

The Air France deal is worth around \$7.2 billion at list

prices but customers can negotiate steep discounts. It's a major investment for the airline, which has posted operating losses over the past couple of years.

The purchase fits in with Air France-KLMs hope to shift away from the cutthroat short-haul market. "This year is a pivotal year for their recovery plan," said Robin Byde, an analyst with Cantor Fitzgerald Europe. Discount carriers, who have successfully competed in both the United States and Europe against more established airlines, also made their mark at the air show.

Boeing Co. on Wednesday finalized an order for 175 of its popular short-haul 737s with Irish low-cost airline Ryanair. The purchase would be valued at \$15.6 billion at list prices, but Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary has said he's getting a steep discount — although less than the 53 percent markdown on a prior order. □



A mechanic works on a Leap jet engine, a CFM International, powering the Airbus A320 neo, during the 50th Paris Air Show at Le Bourget airport, north of Paris, Wednesday June 19, 2013. (AP Photo/Remy de la Mauviniere)

Weak bond trading at Jefferies prompts wider concern

PETER EAVIS

© 2013 New York Times

The recent turbulence in the markets has already taken its toll on one Wall Street firm.

Now, investors and analysts are trying to gauge whether other investment banks have been hurt by turmoil in the bond markets.

Jefferies on Tuesday reported unexpectedly weak bond trading results for its second quarter, which closed at the end of May. Although Jefferies is not as large as Goldman Sachs or JPMorgan Chase, it is an experienced bond-trading firm that weathered the severe storms that have buffeted markets since the financial crisis of 2008. It was no surprise, then, that Wall Street shuddered a little after Jefferies reported second-quarter fixed-income revenue that was down 27 percent from a year earlier. Fixed-income departments trade bonds, currencies and commodities, as well as lucrative financial instruments called

derivatives that are linked to those assets.

Wall Street firms are heavily reliant on fixed-income revenue, more so than trading in stocks. Last year, 29 percent of Goldman's overall revenue came from fixed-income trading. But a jarring shift has been occurring in the fixed-income world since the Federal Reserve signaled that it might start reducing its monetary stimulus this year. Since the crisis, the Fed has injected money into the financial system and economy through the bond market, which supported a strong rally in bond prices. However, in anticipation of a change in the Fed's stance, investors have dumped bonds, causing their prices to plunge. The challenge for Wall Street firms is how to continue to generate fixed-income profits in this environment.

On Tuesday, Richard B. Handler, chief executive of Jefferies, indicated that might be difficult. In a news

release, he said that concerns about a Fed pullback had "led to subdued fixed-income secondary volumes and opportunities," adding that "the fixed-income trading environment can best be characterized

report their second-quarter results in mid-July, they will be healthy despite the current instability. That is because the commotion in the bond markets today is different from other difficult periods. Wall Street firms



Traders on the Jefferies' trading floors in New York. Jefferies, an experienced bond-trading firm, reported this week that its second-quarter fixed-income revenue fell nearly 27 percent. (Librado Romero/The New York Times)

as tepid and cautious." For now at least, the view on Wall Street is that Jefferies is an exception. Some analysts contend that when larger firms like Goldman and JPMorgan

suffer when clients greatly reduce trading. That can happen when political turmoil creates major uncertainty about the future, like the events in Europe a year ago, or when investors fear

bond prices could have a long way to fall, as in the financial crisis.

Today, however, the bond markets appear to exhibit the "right" type of volatility, some analysts said. Investors are busy adjusting their portfolios for a world in which interest rates rise, selling some bonds and buying others. This trading goes through Wall Street firms, bolstering their revenue.

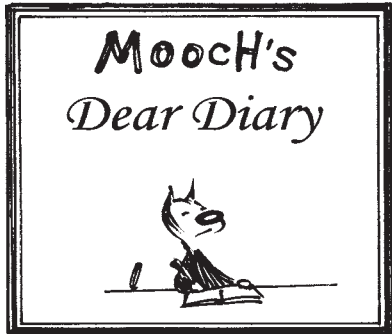
"During that process, you are seeing the fixed-income divisions doing very nicely," said Brad Hintz, an analyst who covers Wall Street firms for Bernstein Research.

"They are doing well as their clients position themselves for higher interest rates."

Big bumps still are possible along the way.

Certain types of bonds can be hard to sell quickly. In the past, certain firms racked up big losses because they were overly exposed to bonds that fell steeply in price. □

Mutts



6-20

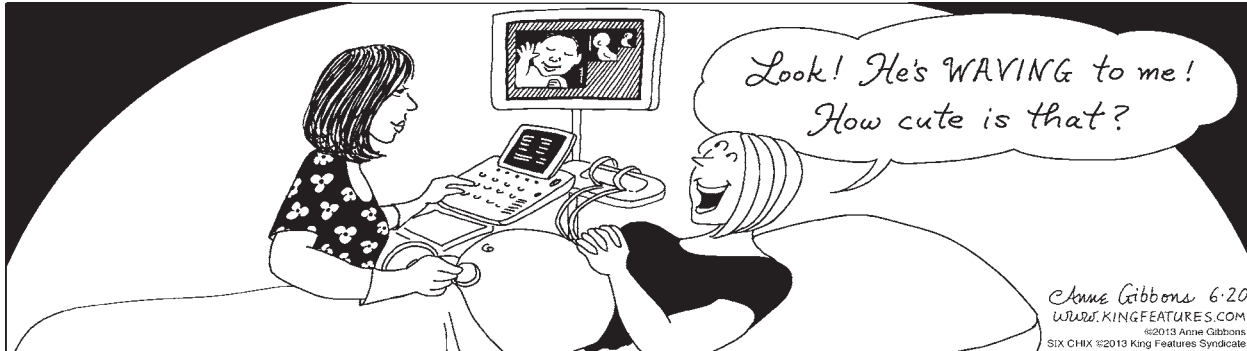
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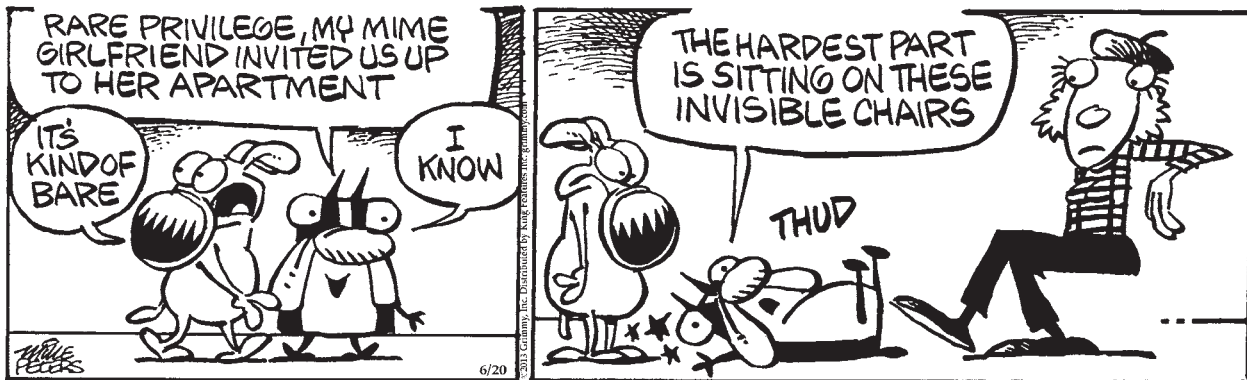


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Blondie



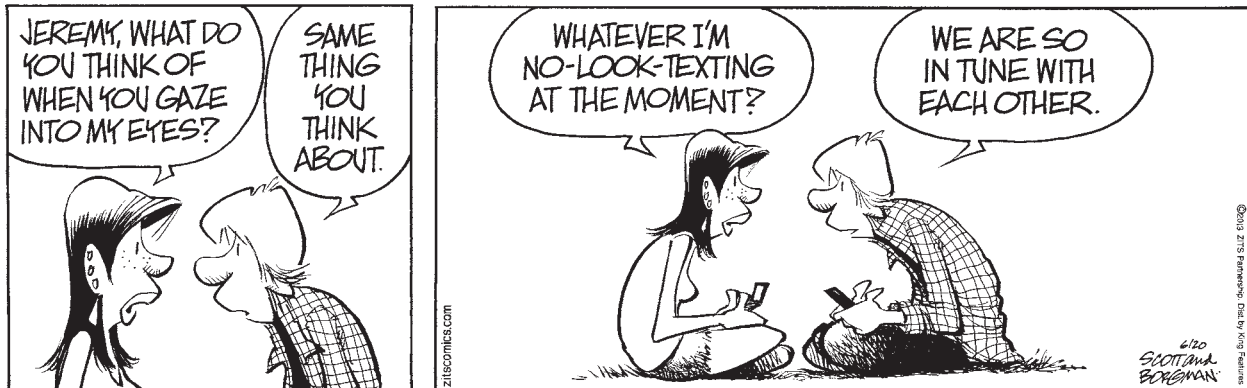
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			1					
	3			4			8	
1		6	2			9		3
						6		8
	8						5	
2		1						
8		7			9	1		2
	1			5			7	
					3			

Difficulty Level ★★★

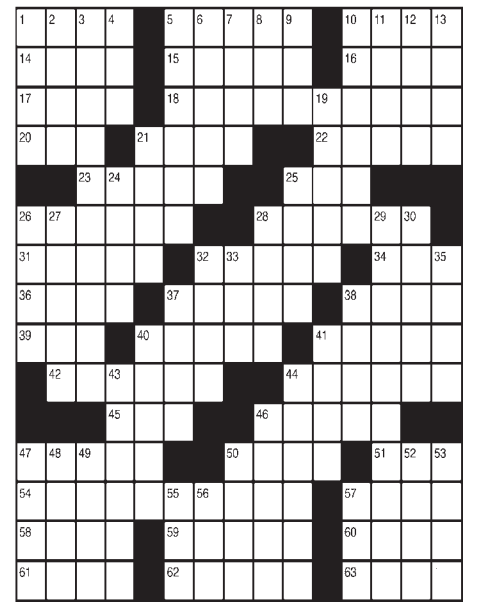
6/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

1	6	4	9	2	3	8	7	5
5	2	3	7	8	4	9	1	6
9	7	8	6	5	1	2	3	4
7	5	6	8	4	2	1	9	3
3	4	9	1	7	5	6	8	2
2	8	1	3	6	9	4	5	7
8	3	7	2	1	6	5	4	9
4	9	2	5	3	8	7	6	1
6	1	5	4	9	7	3	2	8

ACROSS

- 1 "Baa, baa, black sheep, ___ you any wool?..."
5 Excuse
10 Encourage
14 Filled with wonderment
15 Outspoken
16 Dawn, for short
17 Scraps of cloth
18 Lay partially on top of
20 Prepare Easter eggs
21 Had debts
22 Opinions
23 Adjusted a piano
25 That woman
26 ___ out; got rid of gradually
28 Woods
31 Royal vestments
32 Stretch of land
34 Laying bird
36 Hooters
37 "___ or treat!"
38 Blockhead
39 Pass away
40 Consider unlikely
41 Pouts
42 Get away
44 Baryshnikov's dancing
45 Gore & Pacino
46 Singer Page
47 Ridiculous
50 Accompanied by
51 To and ___
54 Cherry for a mai tai garnish
57 Worry; fret
58 Landing dock
59 Obama's VP
60 Sharp; clever
61 Kill
62 Parakeet food
63 Finds a total
- DOWN
1 Difficult
2 Out of town
3 Peas & carrots



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/20/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

NOW	PACED	STAB
AWES	ABOVE	CAGE
YELL	MOLES	UPON
SLOPPY	PIEST	LEGS
GOAL	IMP	
SCRAPS	SENATORS	
CAINE	HAVEN	CUE
ANNS	LIVED	SHIN
LOG	CIDER	TEENS
DESERTED	CHARGE	
DYE	MEAL	
THAI	RELENTING	
HILT	AVERT	NEAT
UNDO	TINGE	GALE
STAR	ELDER	RAN

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6/20/13

- 4 Asner & Koch
5 Declared openly
6 Thought the world of
7 ___ tea
8 Saloon
9 Sick
10 Baseball official
11 Thick cord
12 Got bigger
13 Finishes
19 Turn aside, as the eyes
21 Small bills
24 Utilizes
25 Leave at a pawn shop
26 Incite to action
27 TV's Mandel
28 In ___; actually
29 Stole from a store
30 Cone-shaped dwelling
32 Accurate
33 Curved bone
35 Robin's home
37 Surpasses
- 49 Zone
50 Broad
52 Tall piece of marsh grass
53 Possesses
55 Big TV network
56 Go quickly
57 Music from Jamaica

A kingdom for a horse? No, but \$64 for parking

PATRICK HEALY

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK - For the past 17 summers it has been one of New York's more offbeat free diversions: Shakespeare in the Parking Lot, wherein actors on a shoestring budget perform "Hamlet," "Macbeth" and other classics in a municipal lot on the Lower East Side.

lots, the troupe would have to start reimbursing the city for using empty spaces at the lot on the corner of Broome and Ludlow streets.

The cost is relatively modest - eight spaces at \$8 a day each, or \$64 a performance, that is, \$1,152 for 18 total performances. But leaders of the Drilling Company,

Drilling Company's artistic director, and Rob Wilson, a former board member of the theater and an adviser to Clancy, said they tried to negotiate a waiver or a payment plan with the city, to no avail. They provided emails from a Department of Transportation official, Nina Haiman, who was apologetic but said, in effect, that rules prevented flexibility.

"All we kept hearing," Clancy said, "was that the city is not in the business of negotiating."

"We totally understand that the city has always had a right to charge us, but this request came out of the blue and it's not like any of us has a couple thousand dollars sitting around," he added. "But there's also a strange reality here. We've always performed in unused parking spaces. Some nights there are very few cars in the lot."



Members of the Drilling Company perform "Love's Labor Lost" as part of their Shakespeare in the Parking Lot series, in a municipal parking lot on Ludlow Street in New York. For the last 17 summers, the series never paid to use the lot, but now the city has requested the theater company pay fees for the spaces it uses along with automobile liability insurance.

(Eric Thayer/The New York Times)

The parking lot players always thought of New York City as a silent partner in their endeavor, given that they never paid to use the lot and happily stepped out of the way whenever drivers arrived - sometimes in the middle of a show - in search of a metered space. Indeed, cars were part of the fun, creating theatrical opportunities; last summer performers in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" were sent scurrying when cars started leaving.

But this spring the city's Department of Transportation sent a surprising email: Because of a change in rules for the agency's 33 municipal

which produces the plays, were taken aback. They view the performances as public art and a community service - shows typically draw 150 to 200 people apiece - and their budget for the Shakespeare plays, financed by grants, fundraising and donations, is only \$15,750.

They were even more surprised by a follow-up request from the city that they buy automobile liability insurance, although Drilling Company members don't drive or sit in cars during performances. The troupe ended up paying \$2,400, raised from its members and donations, to cover the expenses.

Hamilton Clancy, the

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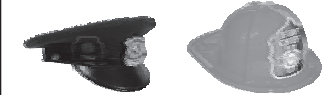
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Scientists agree soggy British weather likely to stay

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The best advice for visitors to Britain — pack an umbrella — is more vital than ever.

Weather scientists said this week that a country that has been unusually soggy in recent years is not likely to dry out soon, and a warm Atlantic Ocean may be to blame.

Meteorologists and climate scientists from around Britain met to discuss why this traditionally temperate country has recently experienced icy winters, the coldest spring in half a century and a string of washed-out summers.

University of Reading meteorology Professor Stephen Belcher, who chaired the workshop organized by Britain's Met Office weather-forecasting agency, said evidence suggests Britain may be in the midst of a 10- to 20-year cycle of wet summer weather that started in 2007 and should end "in the next five to 10 years."

The culprit is the jet stream, the narrow band of fast-moving wind which flows west to east across the Atlantic. It has dipped to the south, hovering over Britain and bringing soggy weather with it.

"The workshop was all about trying to understand what gives us the position of the jet stream," Belcher said. "It is a random process ... but there are some contributors that can load the dice."

He said new research gives insights into the effect on the atmosphere of patterns of warm and cold water in the Atlantic Ocean.

Adam Scaife of the Hadley Centre climate-change research facility said that for the past few summers "we had conditions in the northernmost Atlantic that were much warmer than normal."

"That shifts the odds slightly in favor of this summer being wetter than the historical average," he said.

Similar runs of wet summers also occurred in the 1880s and the 1950s, and Belcher said more research is need-

ed to determine whether the current changes are the result of natural variability, or of human-driven climate change.

Tuesday's conference was convened after three distinctly unusual recent seasons caught scientists' attention.

The winter of 2010 brought snow and ice to areas such as southern England that had long escaped freezing temperatures.

The Met Office says the summer of 2012 — a seemingly endless parade of cool, rainy days — was the second-wettest in a century, and last year overall was the second-wettest on record. And this spring was the coldest since 1962.

"None of these events in themselves are unprecedented," Belcher said — but taken together they led scientists to ask "whether something has changed." He said that much remains unknown, with the cause of the cold winters less clear than for the wet summers. One theory that needs more study is the role played by disappearing

Arctic sea ice.

Most scientists agree that the Earth's temperature is increasing because of

predict the region will be free of sea ice during the summer within about 20 years. Sea ice is important

U.S. and Europe in the past few years.

Amid the uncertainty, forecasters had some



Children play on a stranded car in the flood water as torrential downpours cause flash floods in Jarrow, England. Come rain, wind or sunshine, weather has long been Britain's main topic of conversation. (AP Photo/Scott Heppell)

emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. The Arctic is getting hotter more quickly than any other part of the globe, and experts

because it keeps the rest of the world cooler, and some scientific studies suggest that its melting may be indirectly connected to extreme weather in the

short-term good news for weather-weary Britons — Wednesday and Thursday are expected to be the hottest days of the year so far. □

AT&T introducing solar-powered charging stations

DIANE CARDWELL

© 2013 New York Times

As keeping the mobile life going becomes ever more important — both to wireless customers and the provid-

powered charging stations will sprout in parks, beaches and other outdoor spaces in the five boroughs, part of a pilot project from the wireless provider in partner-

up to six devices at a time, with dedicated ports for iPhones, Androids, Black-Berrys and standard USB charging cables.

Designed by a Brooklyn-based firm, Pensa, with solar technology from Goal Zero, a mobile solar startup, they are to remain in place in spots like Union Square Park, Metrotech Plaza and Rockaway Beach for three to four weeks at a time until October. If successful, AT&T could expand to other cities. The project will cost \$300,000 to \$500,000.

"We view this as a commitment to being a part of the New York community as a corporate citizen but also as a way for New Yorkers to continue to engage with their technology as they continue to consume more and more data," said Marissa Shorenstein, president of AT&T's New York division. It is also good for the company's bottom line. The city has more mobile cus-

tomers than in any other market, and executives, who have promoted use of their network by providing free wireless in subways and at parks and cultural events, realized there was a need for more frequent charging.

And it is the biggest area of growth for the major telecommunications companies, said Eddie Hold, vice president of the Connected Intelligence unit at NPD Group, a market research firm.

"People are making less phone calls than they've made before and more importantly the newer generation of people are really not making many phone calls," he said. "To make money out of data services the telecom companies need to convince you to connect as many devices as possible. The more you connect, the more data you use, the more money they make." □



Marc Claycomb plugs his phone into an AT&T solar-powered mobile charging station in New York, June 11, 2013. The portable chargers for wireless devices will rotate among areas throughout New York until October.

(Michael Nagle for The New York Times)

ers who serve them — AT&T says it has a new way to keep New Yorkers connected.

Starting this week, 25 solar-

ship with the city. The stations — 12.5-foot steel poles with three petal-shaped solar panels fanning out on top — can accommodate

Long lost Bennett-Brubeck recording discovered

CHARLES J. GANS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Tony Bennett never forgot the first time he performed with Dave Brubeck more than half a century ago. But the tape of that memorable collaboration between two American jazz masters lay forgotten in a record label's vaults until its discovery by an archivist just weeks after Brubeck's death in December, and it's just been released as "Bennett/Brubeck: The White House Sessions, Live 1962."

President John F. Kennedy's White House made this jazz summit possible when it booked Brubeck and Bennett to perform at a concert on Aug. 28, 1962, for college-age summer interns. The crowd was so big that the concert had to be moved from the Rose Garden to an open-air theater at the base of the Washington Monument.

After Brubeck and Bennett each performed with their bands, the pianist came back on stage with his drummer Joe Morello and bassist Eugene Wright to accompany the singer on four encore numbers: "We haven't rehearsed this, so lots of luck, folks," Bennett joked with the audience.

"It was very spontaneous — a real jam session, where you really don't plan what you're going to sing or how you're going to play it," said Bennett, who had never previously performed with his Columbia Records labelmate. "I just gave Dave the key and the song, and we just went for it."

The audience went crazy, and you can hear the reaction on the record."

Columbia Records had sent its mobile recording unit to tape the concert. But only one song, their version of "That Old Black Magic," surfaced years later on several compilation albums.

The nearly one-hour tape had been mislabeled as "American Jazz Concert" with no reference to the two jazz legends and ended up lost in a section

of the massive Sony Music Entertainment archives mostly devoted to classical music recordings.

Matt Kelly, director of the archives, was doing routine research last year into Columbia recording sessions done 50 years ago

when he pieced together the paper trail that would lead to the tape's discovery. He cross-referenced incomplete logbook entries for an Aug. 28, 1962, live recording in Washington, which didn't list the performers' names, and

separate listings for Bennett and Brubeck sessions that same day. After Brubeck's death at age 91 on Dec. 5, Bennett's camp prodded Sony to see if a tape of the Washington concert existed and it was quickly located.

"I was shocked they even had it," Bennett said in a telephone interview.

John Jackson, Sony Legacy's vice president of A&R and Content, was surprised to find the tape in pristine condition and decided it had to be released.

"Both Tony and Dave are absolutely at the top of their game," Jackson said. "It's the only time they were recorded performing together and to have them on tape together was just too good to be true."

Brubeck's classic quartet — with alto saxophonist Paul Desmond — begins the set by playing the odd-metered "Take Five" at a faster tempo than on their groundbreaking 1959 al-

bum "Time Out," which the year before had peaked at No. 2 on the pop album charts.

The rest of the set includes Brubeck compositions inspired by the rhythms of countries where he had performed — "Nomad" (Afghanistan), "Thank You (Dziękuję)" (Poland) and "Castilian Blues" (Spain).

The smooth-voiced Bennett, accompanied by pianist Ralph Sharon's trio, sings Broadway tunes such as "Just In Time" and "Small World" in his set, which closes with a song that had begun climbing the pop singles chart a few weeks earlier — "I Left My Heart In San Francisco."

Their joint performance offers a rare chance to hear Brubeck perform Great American Songbook standards with a top-flight jazz singer and Bennett unleash his jazz chops often kept in check on his more pop-oriented Columbia recordings. □



This CD cover image released by Columbia Legacy shows "The White House Sessions, Live 1962," by Tony Bennett and Dave Brubeck.

(AP Photo/Columbia Legacy)

Jodi Arias film: a new case of fatal attraction

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — She doesn't boil a pet bunny. But Jodi Arias displays wicked knife technique in a new Lifetime movie that could have just as well been titled, "Fatal Attraction for Cable News."

Premiering Saturday at 8 p.m. EDT, "Jodi Arias: Dirty Little Secret" is a ripped-from-cable-news saga of a woman scorned who last month was found guilty of killing her former lover, motivational speaker Travis Alexander. On June 4, 2008, Arias stabbed and slashed him nearly 30 times, slit his throat and shot him in the head in what prosecutors said was jealous rage, and what Arias unpersuasively argued was self-defense, when, according to her, he attacked her.

But you know all that. "Dirty Little Secret" unearths no secrets, dirty or otherwise. Every sordid detail, it seems, has been trumpeted for years by the media, then recycled for months

during Arias' trial in Phoenix that got blanket coverage on TV and in particular on cable's HLN, vaulting that network to record ratings.

the July retrial in the life-or-death-penalty phase.

The big surprise: "Dirty Little Secret" is a pretty good film. It's a draw-you-in,



This TV publicity image released by Lifetime shows Jesse Lee Soffer, portraying Travis Alexander, left, and Tania Raymonde portraying convicted killer Jodi Arias in a scene from the Lifetime movie "Jodi Arias: Dirty Little Secret," premiering Saturday, June 22, at 8:00 p.m. EST.

(AP Photo/Lifetime, Jack Zeman)

Now comes the inevitable made-for-TV film. Portraying what led up to the crime, it's tucked handily between the May verdict for the murder trial and

sudsy melodrama stocked with guilty pleasures: romance, sex, obsession, betrayal and vengeance.

Tania Raymonde (perhaps best remembered as Alex

Rousseau on "Lost") is swell as Jodi, with a remarkable likeness to this sexy, young woman no man could resist, at least not Travis as he fought a losing battle with his Mormon principles to feast on this forbidden fruit. Or, to use a metaphor straight from the film, forbidden coffee — which, as Travis explains to Jodi early on, he shuns as a Mormon because of its addictive properties.

"I'm like coffee," Jodi teases him.

"Very strong coffee," he agrees as he submits again. Jesse Lee Soffer (Jordana Spiro's jammed-up brother on last season's short-lived "The Mob Doctor") makes a fine Travis — glib, blandly wholesome and all too relatable in his mission to have it both ways, relationship-wise: treating Jodi as a red-hot plaything while he nurtures a "suitable" wife-worthy prospect.

Trouble arises, of course, as love-struck Jodi bristles at the strictly recreational role she plays in Travis' life. □

Family:

Country singer Slim Whitman dies at age 90

TERRY SPENCER
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Country singer Slim Whitman, the high-pitched yodeler who sold millions of records through ever-present TV ads in the 1980s and 1990s and whose song saved the world in the film comedy "Mars Attacks!," died Wednesday at a Florida hospital. He was 90.

Whitman died of heart failure at Orange Park Medical Center, his son-in-law Roy Beagle said.

Whitman's tenor falsetto and ebony mustache and sideburns became global trademarks — and an inspiration for countless jokes — thanks to the TV commercials that pitched his records.

But he was a serious musical influence on early rock, and in the British Isles, he was known as a pioneer of country music for popularizing the style there. Whitman also encouraged a teen Elvis Presley when he was the headliner on the bill and the young singer was making his professional debut.

Whitman recorded more than 65 albums and sold millions of records, including 4 million of "All My Best" that was marketed on TV.

His career spanned six decades, beginning in the late 1940s, but he achieved cult figure status in the 1980s. His visage as an ordinary guy singing romantic ballads struck a responsive chord with the public.

"All of a sudden, here comes a guy in a black and white suit, with a mustache and a receding hairline, playing a guitar and singing 'Rose Marie,'" Whitman told The Associated Press in 1991. "They hadn't seen that."

For most of the 1980s, he was consistent fodder for Johnny Carson's monologues on late night NBC-TV, and the butt of Slim Whitman look-alike contests.

"That TV ad is the reason I'm still here," he said. "It buys fuel for the boat."

"I almost didn't do them. I had seen those kinds of

commercials and didn't like them. But it was one of the smartest things I ever did."

He yodeled throughout his career and had a three-octave singing range. Whitman said yodeling required rehearsal.

"It's like a prize fighter. He knows he has a fight coming up, so he gets in the gym and trains. So when I have a show coming up, I practice yodeling."

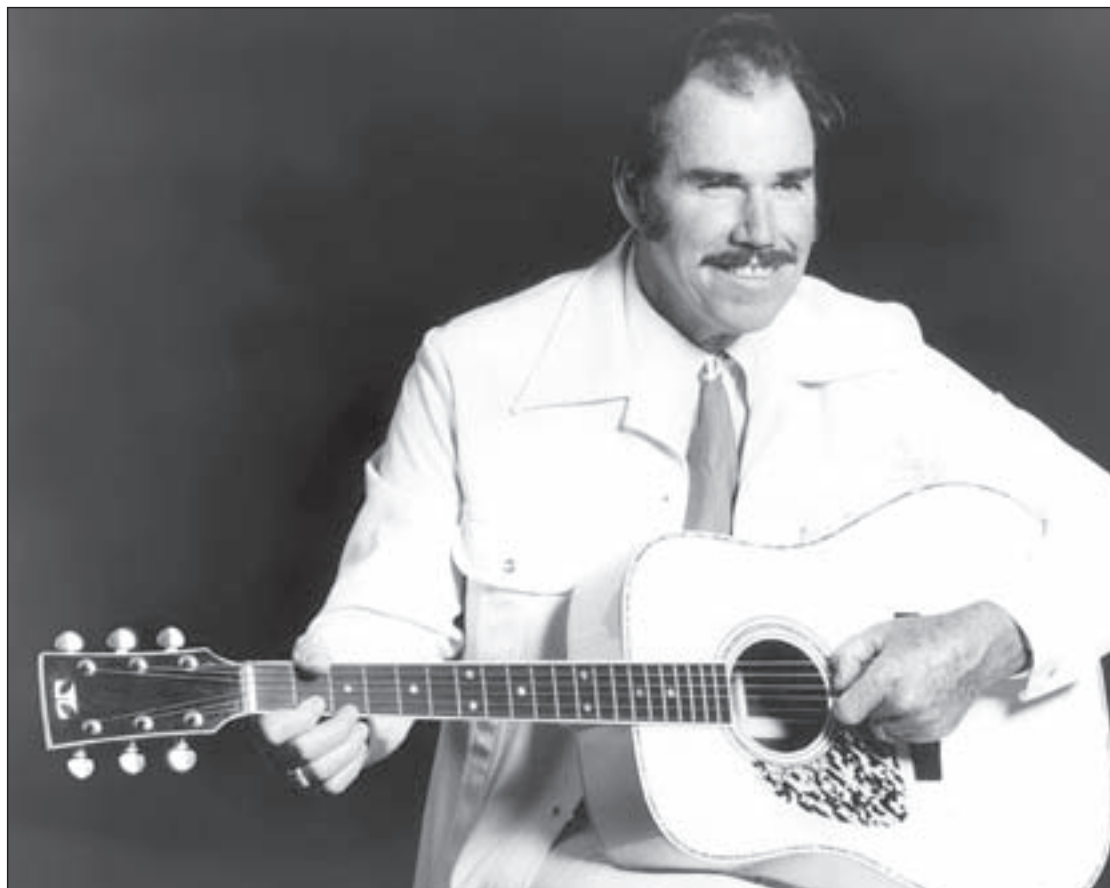
ie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." Another Whitman hit from that year, "Indian Love Call," was used to humorous effect in the 1996 "Mars Attacks!" — his yodel causes the Martians' heads to explode.

He crossed paths with Presley in July 1954 when he starred at a concert in a Memphis park just as Presley — mistakenly billed as "Ellis Presley" in one ad for the show — was launching

spawned "Indian Love Call," became a huge hit in England in 1955, staying at No. 1 on the charts for 11 weeks.

Whitman's other hits included "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You," "Red River Valley," "Danny Boy" and "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen."

"The material I did was lasting material," Whitman said in 1991. "A lot of people thought I wasn't doing



This undated black & white file photo shows country singer Slim Whitman. Whitman died Wednesday, June 19, 2013 of heart failure in Florida. He was 90. Whitman's career began in the late 1940s, and his tenor falsetto and ebony mustache and sideburns became global trademarks. They were also an inspiration for countless jokes thanks to the ubiquitous 1980s and 1990s TV commercials that pitched his records.

(AP Photo)

Born Ottis Dewey Whitman Jr. in Tampa on Jan. 23, 1923, he worked as a young man in a meatpacking plant, at a shipyard and as a postman.

He was able to get on radio in Tampa and signed with RCA Records in 1949 with the help of Col. Tom Parker, who later became Presley's longtime manager. RCA gave Whitman the show business name Slim to replace his uninspiring birth name.

In 1952, Whitman had his first hit record, "Love Song of the Waterfall," which 25 years later became part of the soundtrack of the mov-

his career.

According to Peter Guralnick's book "Last Train to Memphis," Presley's brief, energetic turn on stage caused a wild reaction from the crowd. When Whitman came on for his performance, he told the audience: "You know, I can understand your reaction, 'cause I was standing backstage and I was enjoying it just as much as you." With Whitman's early hits, he became a star on the "Louisiana Hayride" radio show.

His version of "Rose Marie," the title song from the venerable operetta that

anything, but I was in the studio. The biggest factor is the material you choose. You hunt, you cut."

He was survived by his daughter, Sharon Beagle, and his son, Byron Whitman.

Whitman told the AP in 1991 that he wanted to be remembered as "a nice guy."

"I don't think you've ever heard anything bad about me, and I'd like to keep it that way. I'd like my son to remember me as a good dad. I'd like the people to remember me as having a good voice and a clean suit." □

'Man of Steel' is being promoted from the pulpit

DERRIK J. LANG
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Seems Warner Bros. has taken movie marketing to a whole new level — even higher than a bird or a plane.

The studio enlisted Christian-focused firm Grace Hill Media to promote "Man of Steel" to faith-based groups by inviting them to early screenings and creating trailers that highlight the film's religious themes. They also enlisted Craig Detweiler, a Pepperdine University professor and author of "Into the Dark: Seeing the Sacred in the Top Films of the 21st Century," to create a Superman-centric sermon outline for pastors titled "Jesus: The Original Superhero."

"Let's consider how Superman's humble origins, his high calling and his transforming sacrifice point us towards Jesus, the original superhero," the notes read.

The tale of Superman has long been associated with religious allegories. "Man of Steel," which stars British actor Henry Cavill in the titular role, doesn't shy away from that theme, including portraying the character as 33 years old, having him seek counsel at a church in a time of crisis and forming a cross-like pose while floating in space.

"I just felt like you could be cute with it and pretend like it doesn't exist, but what that does is hold back the mythology of Superman," said "Man of Steel" director Zack Snyder in an interview to promote the film earlier this month. Snyder added, "Comic books are our mythology now. We don't really have gods that we believe in that live up on a mountain. We barely believe in the gods that we have, and I just feel like Superman allows us to explain the modern world."

Hollywood studios frequently market movies to specific religious and cultural groups. □

Bill Schools Barry On Syria



MAUREEN DOWD
© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON - Not only is President Barack Obama leading from behind, now he's leading from behind Bill Clinton.

After dithering for two years over what to do about the slaughter in Syria, the president was finally shoved into action by the past and perhaps future occupant of his bedroom.

Clinton told John McCain during a private Q-and-A on Tuesday in New York that Obama should be more forceful on Syria and should not rationalize with opinion polls that reflect Americans' reluctance to tangle in foreign crises. McCain has been banging the gong on a no-fly zone in Syria for some time.

The oddity of Obama's being taken to the leadership woodshed by the Democrat who preceded him and the Republican who failed to pre-empt him was not lost on anyone. When Obama appointed Clinton "the Secretary of 'Splaining Stuff,'" he didn't think Bill would be 'splaining how lame Barry was.

As Maggie Haberman reported in *Politico*, Clinton said at the McCain Institute for International Leadership that the public elects presidents and lawmakers to "look around the corner and see down the road" and "to win," not to follow polls.

When the man who polled where to take his summer vacation and whether to tell the truth about his affair with Monica Lewinsky tells you you're a captive of polls, you'd better listen up.

Citing his own experiences in Kosovo and Bosnia, Clinton said that if you blamed a poll for a lack of action, "you'd look like a total wuss." He added that "when people are telling you 'no' in these situations, very often what they're doing is flashing a giant yellow light" of caution.

According to Haberman, Clinton, who apologized for failing to intervene in the Rwandan genocide, continued: "If you refuse to act and you cause a calamity, the one thing you cannot say when all the eggs have been broken is that 'Oh my God, two years ago there was a poll that said 80 percent of you were against it.' Right? You'd look like a total fool. So you really have to in the end trust the American people, tell them what you're doing, and hope to God you can sell it."

That is the problem for Obama: selling it. The silver-tongued campaigner has turned out to be a leaden salesman in the Oval Office. On issues from drones to gun

control to taxes to Syria, the president likes to cite public opinion polls to justify his action or inaction. He seems incapable of getting in front of issues and shaping public and congressional opinion with a strong selling job.

After the whistle was blown on the National Security Agency's No Call Left Behind program, the president said he would welcome an ex post facto debate. But now that polls indicate that the overwhelming American attitude is "Spy on me," Obama has dropped the subject.

Too bad. We'll see what Americans have to say when someone in the mold of Dick Cheney or Bob Haldeman gets his hands on all that personal data; the West Wing has been known to drive its occupants nuts.

On Syria, the administration now says it will begin supplying rebels with small arms and ammunition, a gesture that friends and foes alike say is too little, too late. The *Times*' Peter Baker reported Saturday that Obama himself said it wouldn't change anything but would maybe buy time.

And as the White House announced this pittance of a policy Thursday evening, the president was nowhere to be seen. He let his deputy national security adviser, Ben Rhodes, be the face of the Syria plan, while he spent time at an LGBT Pride Month celebration, a Father's Day luncheon and a reception for the WNBA championship Indiana Fever basketball team.

On "Morning Joe" Friday, Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Carter national security adviser, dismissed the president's response to Syria as "propaganda," noting the ambiguous nature of the red line that President Bashar Assad had crossed, killing 150 people with chemical weapons after nearly 93,000 had died in the civil war.

"It all seems to me rather sporadic, chaotic, unstructured, undirected," he said. "I think we need a serious policy review with the top people involved, not just an announcement by the deputy head of the NSC."

Especially, he added, since Syria could slide into a larger regional war that would pit America against Syria's ally, Iran, with a huge effect on the international economy and America's budget.

While the president was avoiding talking about what he hadn't wanted to do in the first place, the former president was ubiquitous and uxorious, chatting about Syria and myriad other issues on MSNBC and Bloomberg TV; smiling on the cover of Bloomberg Businessweek and offering his solutions for corporate America's problems; presiding at his global initiative in Chicago; and promoting the woman he hopes will be the next president. On Friday, a self-satisfied Clinton told the "Morning Joe" hosts about Syria, "It looks to me like this thing is trending in the right direction now."

The less Obama leads, the more likely it is that history will see him as a pallid interregnum between two chaotic Clinton eras.

Nature abhors a vacuum. And so does Bill Clinton. □



These Children Are Our Future



CHARLES M. BLOW
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Now that high school graduation season is winding down, it's worth taking a moment to remember that in the sea of flowing gowns lurk some unsettling statistical realities. On many measures of childhood well-being, the last decade in the United States has been one of stagnation. We remain an outlier in many ways among developed countries.

This doesn't mean that the United States hasn't made progress in recent memory. It has. It's just that much of that progress came in the 1990s. Since then, our progress has slowed or stalled.

This week, the research group Child Trends released a statistical portrait of the high school class of 2013, compiled by a senior researcher, David Murphey. The report imagines a hypothetical class of 100 graduates. Of those, it estimates that:

- 71 have experienced physical assault, 28 have been victimized sexually (10 report that they have been the victims of dating violence in the past year, and 10 report they have been raped), 32 have experienced some form of child maltreatment, 27 were in a physical fight, and 16 carried a weapon in the past year.

- 64 have had sexual intercourse, 48 are sexually active, 27 used a condom and 12 were on birth control pills the last time they had sex; 21 percent had a sexually transmitted infection in the past year; three or four of the young women have been or are pregnant, and one has had an abortion.

- 39 have been bullied, physically or emotionally - 16 in the past year; 29 felt "sad and hopeless" continually for at least two weeks during the past year; 14 thought seriously about attempting suicide, and six went through with the attempt.
- 34 are overweight, and 22 are living in poverty (10 in deep poverty).

Those statistics are shameful. We have not sufficiently prioritized some fundamental safety structures for children in this country - fighting child poverty; supporting all families (including single-parent ones) and their children through policies like paid family leave and early childhood education; insulating children from a culture soaked with violence; and educating children fully about sexuality and pregnancy, and allowing them open access to a full range of safe sex options (which would reduce our extraordinary rate of sexually transmitted disease, prevent more unintended pregnancies and reduce the number of abortions).

Our problems would be fixable if only we could agree that the protection and healthy development of this country's children is not only a humanitarian and moral imperative, but also an economic and cultural one: today's students are tomorrow's workers.

However, many conservatives seem too selfish to take the altruistic view and too blind to take the self-interested one.

For instance, we are among only three countries that have not ratified the United Nation's 1989 Convention on the Rights

of the Child, which UNICEF calls "the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights." The other two countries are South Sudan, which just became a country in 2011, and Somalia.

During a 2008 youth debate between the presidential candidates, Barack Obama and John McCain were asked whether they would seek to ratify the treaty. Obama responded:

"It's important that the United States return to its position as a respected global leader and promoter of human rights. It's embarrassing to find ourselves in the company of Somalia, a lawless land. I will review this and other treaties, and ensure the United States resumes its global leadership in human rights."

Embarrassing is an understatement, but efforts to have the United States ratify the treaty has been met with opposition from Republicans because, as Mother Jones reported in 2010, "Under the treaty, 'parents would no longer be able to administer reasonable spankings to their children,' the government couldn't sentence teenagers to life in prison, kids could get sex-ed and birth control if they wanted it, and - gasp! - children would be able to choose their own religion, according to a fact sheet published by ParentalRights.org."

That year, ParentalRights.org reported that 31 senators were co-sponsoring legislation to prevent the United States from ratifying the treaty; two other senators signed a letter opposing ratification. All of them were Republicans.

Only eight Republican senators did not sign on to this tomfoolery; five of them are now gone from the Senate.

When you prefer the company of Somalia on issues of children's rights and well-being, you know what your priorities are. □

DC Political Stalemate Ends With Food Truck Regulations

ANNIE LOWREY

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WASHINGTON - A protracted legislative battle that has consumed the city - one that has pitted established businesses against startups, energized politicians on both sides of the aisle and prompted a grass-roots online campaign - has finally come to an end.

Washington has agreed on regulations for its food trucks. On Tuesday, the City Council passed new rules for the popular trucks, which have proliferated in the past few years, offering fare like Brazilian hot dogs and Laotian noodles. The regulations still need to be signed by Mayor Vincent C. Gray, but the gist is that the operators of the trucks need to apply to a monthly lottery to win the right to park in particularly in-demand downtown zones. Other trucks need to maintain a specified distance.

"It's a fair compromise," said Ché Ruddell-Tabisola, the political director of the Food Truck Association of

Metropolitan Washington and a co-owner of the BBQ Bus. "Consumers will continue to have choices."

But the long fight over the rules has enthralled this city, particularly among those who have delighted over the exotic new lunch options and among conservatives and libertarians who saw it as a parable about the malign influence of entrenched interests and the overreach of the state.

"From a constitutional standpoint, the government has a perfectly legitimate role in regulating on the basis of public health and safety," said Bert Gall of the Institute of Justice, a public interest law firm that has lobbied on behalf of the food trucks. "But the 14th Amendment is supposed to stop the kind of overreach that inevitably occurs when people, in this case the restaurant association, or an entrenched interest use their political might to install or create regulations that have a negative impact on their

competitors."

In the past few years, the city's food trucks have thrived, their numbers growing to well over 100. The city decided to revamp its out-of-date mobile vending regulations, setting off a heated four-year back-and-forth. Some restaurateurs pushed for strict new rules, arguing that the food trucks did not pay their share of taxes and that they remained unfairly free of regulations. The truck owners, in some cases, argued that the restaurants were merely trying to quash their competition. Early proposals were flung up, fiercely debated and slapped down. One proposal, for instance, would have levied a \$2,000 fine against truck operators who let their parking meter expire. "Most of these food vendors aren't capitalized to the point" that they could bear those costs, Marion S. Barry, the former mayor and current council member, said on Tuesday. "They're struggling, hard-

working citizens of the district."

The proposals kicked off a protracted political process and a furious lobbying campaign on both sides, with the food trucks forming their own association, campaigning on Twitter and even buying advertising space on buses.

The fight also caught the attention of conservatives and libertarians opposed to what they see as government overregulation. Scholars at the Cato Institute, a libertarian research group, howled at proposed legislation. The Institute of Justice, which has aided food trucks in other cities, got involved. Even Grover Norquist, the small-government warrior, put in his two cents, telling the National Journal that the proposed food truck regulations were a perfect example of big government harming small businesses.

After all the wrangling, the City Council compromised. Not all the food truck operators were entirely pleased

with the results.

"Few businesses hand over so much operational control to the customers," Ruddell-Tabisola said. "That's what's really special about food trucks. People can Facebook BBQ Bus and say, 'we'd love barbecue here on Thursday.'"

The new regulations tie the truck operators' hands, and depending on how they are carried out, they might make business harder, he said.

Perhaps as is inevitable in the legislative process, all sides seemed relieved if unsatisfied. "We're not completely happy. I don't think anybody's completely happy," said Andrew J. Kline, legislative consultant for the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, adding that restaurateurs wanted to ensure that food trucks had to comply with regulations just as sidewalk cafes and other brick-and-mortar businesses did. "There are still a lot of issues to be worked out - and after four years.□"



Food trucks parked at Farragut Park in Washington, June 18, 2013. The City Council in Washington on Tuesday agreed on regulations for food trucks after a protracted legislative battle that consumed the city.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)